THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU • MONDAY • DECEMBER 09, 2024 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

ON COURSE, LIREN BLUNDERS, GUKESH TAKES LEAD

India's D Gukesh took a giant step towards becoming the youngest world champion in history after winning game 11 of the FIDE World Chess Championship. He currently leads 6-5 in championship| P13

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of Rajasthan

WELCOME

RISING RAJASTHAN™
9-10-11 DEC 2024 • JAIPUR

"The vision of Viksit Bharat can be realised through Viksit States, and the aspiration of Viksit Bharat should reach the grassroots level.

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister"

9 DEC — Inauguration & Opportunity Showcase
10 DEC — Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave
11 DEC — MSME Conclave
All Days — Rajasthan Global Business Expo
32 — Partner & Participating Countries
21 — Thematic & Country Sessions

SHRI NARENDRA MODI
Hon'ble Prime Minister
will inaugurate
RISING RAJASTHAN
GLOBAL INVESTMENT SUMMIT
&
RAJASTHAN GLOBAL BUSINESS EXPO
in the august presence of

SHRI HARIBHAU KISANRAO BAGDE
Hon'ble Governor, Rajasthan

SHRI BHAJAN LAL SHARMA
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan

Today, 9 December 2024
at Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre, Jaipur

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Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Rajasthan

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RIICO GROW WITH RAJASTHAN
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Government of Haryana

"भारत ने नारी नहीं, निष्ठा के साथ women led development की ओर कदम बढ़ाए हैं और महिला सशक्तिकरण का लाभ आज हर क्षेत्र में दिख रहा है जो भारत की विकास यात्रा में योगदान दे रहा है।"

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Sashakt Nari Shakti, Viksit Bharat

Prime Minister

Sh. Narendra Modi

to Launch

Bima Sakhi Yojana

of L.I.C.

And

Lay Foundation Stone of

Main Campus, Uchani of

Maharana Pratap Horticulture University

Presided over by

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

Empowerment by Bima Sakhi Yojana

Women having minimum 18 years of age and 10th Pass Certificate can join **Bima Sakhi Yojana** by visiting the nearest LIC branch or portal of **www.licindia.in**

Women will get a monthly salary of Rs. 7,000 in the first year, Rs. 6,000 in the second year and Rs. 5000 in the third year

DD NEWS Live telecast on DD News

Date - 9 December, 2024 | Time - 3 pm

Venue - Panipat

डबल इंजन सरकार, विकास को रफ्तार

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1089/13/1934/2025/309916/401/29

THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • DECEMBER 09, 2024 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

Three wings of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Sunday held a protest march to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka

BANGLADESH'S BNP PARTY MEMBERS MARCH TO INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION

Protesters slam attack on B'desh mission

Thousands of BNP members took part in the march. Leaders of the three wings were allowed to proceed to the IHC to submit a memorandum, protesting the attack on Bangladesh's mission in Tripura on Dec 2 | **P9**

TODAY FOREIGN SECRETARY VIKRAM MISRI WILL VISIT DHAKA. HE WILL RAISE INDIA'S CONCERNS OVER THE ATTACKS ON HINDUS

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▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI
▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR
▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM
▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM
▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Assad flees as Syria falls to rebels

AGENCIES

THE Syrian government on Sunday fell to a lightning rebel offensive that seized control of capital Damascus, ending the 24-year rule by president Bashar al-Assad and forcing him to flee—reportedly to Russia.

Syrian state television stated Assad had been overthrown. Rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) claimed it released all prisoners from Sednaya prison, where political opponents were said to have been tortured by the Assad regime.

Syrian prime minister Mohammed Ghazi Jalali said the government would turn its functions over to a transitional government. Jalali will supervise Syrian state institutions until they are handed over, HTS chief Abu Mohammed al-Golani said, signalling the Islamist group prefers an orderly transition.

Seizure of Damascus comes a day after opposition forces took the central city of Homs, as government forces abandoned it.

There were few casualties as government forces withdrew or surrendered without trying to put up much of a resistance.

There was no immediate comment from Iran, Assad's staunchest supporter, while close ally Russia said Assad ordered a "peaceful transfer of power" and left the country.

Israel, another key player in the region, moved quickly to deploy its forces in a demilitarized buffer zone in Golan Heights, established in 1974 by a ceasefire agreement with Syria.

While Syrians largely welcomed Assad's fall, the sudden onset of events portend regional instability due to the shift in balance of power. **P11**

Syrians welcome opposition fighters in Damascus on Sunday | AP

Regional security key for India, says Jaishankar

Manama: Addressing the Manama Dialogue in Bahrain, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday highlighted the importance of West Asia for New Delhi and spoke about the need to improve the security situation there and prevent conflicts from spreading further | **P9**

India to soon have comprehensive anti-drone unit, says Amit Shah

MUKESH RANJAN @New Delhi

UNION home minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that India will soon have a comprehensive anti-drone unit to deal with the ever-increasing menace of unmanned aerial vehicles being used by Pak-based elements to drop weapons and drugs along the western frontiers.

Speaking at an event to mark the Border Security Force's 60th Raising Day in Rajasthan's border district of Jodhpur, Shah said the initial results of a "laser-equipped anti-drone gun-mounted" mechanism have been encouraging, adding that cases of drone neutralisation and detection, have gone up from 3% to 55% along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab.

"The drone menace is going to get more serious. We are tackling this issue with a 'whole of government' approach with the defence and research organisations and the DRDO joining hands," Shah said, adding: "We are going to create a comprehensive anti-drone unit for the country in the coming days".

As per recent government data, more than 260 drones have been downed or recovered from India's border with Pakistan this year as compared to about 110 in 2023, most of them in Punjab.

Shah said the ongoing Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) for securing India's borders with Pakistan (2,289 km) and Bangladesh (4,096 km) is a work in progress. "We have had an encouraging response from the CIBMS deployed along the riverine borders in Assam's Dhubri (India-Bangladesh international border) but some improvements are required," he said.

Gaganyaan astronauts to get training at INS Garuda

MANOJ VISWANATHAN @Kochi

THE four astronauts selected for India's inaugural human space flight programme, the Gaganyaan, will undergo rigorous training at the Indian Navy's water survival training facility (WSTF) at INS Garuda in Kochi on how to survive in water after landing in the sea.

While ISRO and DRDO are pioneering the space flight, the Navy is tasked with recovering the crew module from sea on its return to earth after the three-day mission. The module is expected to land in the Indian Ocean and the Navy will be positioning its vessels in the region. The ISRO has marked the waters for landing with 48 backup spots.

> We train aircrew how to survive in rough sea... how to come out of the aircraft and survive in case of ditching at sea. Out facility gives real-time experience and removes fear
>
> Capt Shinodh Karthikeyan

Upon landing, the astronaut will open the module's hatch and jump into the water. He will then inflate the personal safety pack and wait for the recovery team's arrival.

WSTF's training is essentially to help the crew survive in rough sea for about six hours till help arrives.

Gaganyaan's recovery team comprising naval divers and marine commandos has already undergone one round of training at the facility. "This is our first attempt. Navy, in coordination with ISRO scientists, has prepared a standard operating procedure on recovering the crew. The recovery team has been trained to ensure safe extraction of the astronauts even in harsh weather conditions," Captain Shinodh Karthikeyan, officer in-charge of WSTF, told this paper. "We brought people from Canada to train our divers in underwater egress drills and later launched our own instructor course to create a pool of expert instructors," he added.

WSTF, the third such facility in the world, simulates sea conditions with wave of more than 1.5 m height, winds up to 40 knots, rain, along with thunder and lightning effects.

FUTURE OF CRIME: AI & DEEPFAKES

Cybercrime trends show that in the coming years, fraudsters will blur reality to loot vulnerable sectors, with studies pointing at fake apps, cryptojacking, and malware attacks as threats | **P7**

EXPRESS READ

Winter Session of Assembly starts today

Belagavi: The 10-day Winter Session of the state legislature will start here on Monday, and would see the government and opposition lock horns on many contentious issues | **P6**

IAS officer-led team to probe drug procurement

Bengaluru: In the wake of the deaths of women in Ballari, a verification team led by an IAS officer has been set up to probe irregularities in drug procurement by KSMSCL | **P6**

Binge watch! K'taka looks to launch own OTT platform

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

IN line with the Kerala government-owned over-the-top (OTT) platform -- 'C-space' -- the Karnataka government's Sree Kanteerava Studios Limited is gearing up to launch its own OTT service. The move is aimed at improving revenues for Sree Kanteerava Studios, which now earns by renting out its studio space for film and television production. Along with this, the state-owned facility is also aiming to venture into movie and serial production.

Accordingly, Sree Kanteerava Studios Chairman Mahaboob Pasha has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, to consider the request, and has stated that the move will not only help improve revenues, but will also provide employment to those dependent on the film industry.

In a letter addressed to the CM dated December 7, Pasha said, "The 310th meeting of the board of directors was held on November 30. There, it was decided that Sree Kanteerava Studios will enter commercial business and produce movies and short films." He added that in order to foray into commercial business, Sree Kanteerava Studios has amended its Memorandum of Association. **CONTINUED ON P7**

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Samriddh Narishakti, Viksit Bharat

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LIC/P1/2024-25/36/Eng

ALMANAC TODAY

- **Monday:** 09.12.2024 • **Year:** Krodhi • **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
- **Ritu:** Hemanth • **Masa:** Margasira • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Navami 3.11 am
- **Nakshatra:** Purvabhadra 1.05 pm • Moon in Meena Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
- **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 18°C | MAX 28°C

FORECAST
Cloudy

Sunrise	06.30 am
Sunset	05.53 pm
Moonrise	12.55 pm
Moonset	12.23 am

Cantt stn's heritage arches reduced to rubble

Bengaluru: The demolition of heritage structures at Bengaluru Cantonment railway station in connection with the massive station redevelopment work undertaken has created a furore among a section of the public. The masonry arches, between the two railway tracks here demolished recently, date back to the British-era in this station, Karnataka's first railway station and commenced operations in November 1862. A total of 25 arches present between Platform One and Two, all of them ancient and made of stone, have been demolished, said a railway official. An official release from South Western Railway confirmed the demolition. However, it justified it stating that the structure had become unsafe due to its dilapidated condition and was done in public interest only.

BUILDER IGNORES RERA ORDER, HELPLESS HOMEBUYERS WAIT FOR FLATS

Many paying pre-EMI interest, home loans; 120 crore project changed from 11 to 15 floors

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE 266 home buyers of apartments in a posh residential complex at Haralur village are facing a bleak future. After investing all their savings in flats in 'Frontier Heights' in Varthur hobli, they are clueless about the fate of their homes. The builder has neither completed it, nor has he adhered to an order passed by the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) over a year ago.

The Rs 120-crore project has 15 floors (plus a ground floor) with five blocks. The office of the developer, Frontier Shelters Pvt Ltd, is in Koramangala. Proprietor Anand Reddy, who resides in the same area, is unreachable. This despite homebuyers repeatedly staging protests outside his residence.

Cases have been filed with K-RERA, consumer court and the local police station but there seems to be no relief in sight for them. Among the desperate owners are Himshika Das and her husband Himanshu Lahkar.

"We bought a 3BHK apartment, making full payment of nearly Rs 1 crore in April 2018, with the assurance that it would be ready for handover by June 2019. Initially, Covid and labour shortage were given as reasons for non-completion. It is the end of 2024 now and there is no sign of our house being handed over to us," she told TNIE.

Sadananda Bhat bought a 3BHK house of a different dimension, for Rs 75 lakh. "I bought my property in September 2017. So far, I have paid up to Rs 69 lakh. Initially, it was planned as a ground-plus-11 structure, the plan was later modified to make it 15 floors," he explained. Due to the huge delay in handover, as many as 40 owners have individually filed cases in the consumer court, he added.

Bhat had taken a home loan to purchase it. "I am paying my EMI regularly. Apart from that, I am paying rent for the house where I reside presently. It is a huge financial burden," he said. He adds that the plight of many others is worse. The builder had promised to pay their pre-EMI interest charges and trusting him, many took loans from the bank under the Subvention Scheme and handed it over to him for their homes. "For some time, the builder paid the interest but later stopped it. Hence, they are now paying interest on it with no EMI amount being paid. The banks refuse to convert the scheme into a regular home loan," he explained.

TNIE has a copy of the RERA verdict issued on September 15, 2023, in connection with a case filed by Ashish Kumar Pandey and Neeti Mishra, who were promised their flat on October 1, 2019. The court has ordered payment of Rs 69.41 lakh as interest for the period of delay till May 21, 2023. It had ordered payment to be made within 60 days of the order as well as handover of the completed flat within the period. It has been ignored by the builder.

Marketing manager of Frontier Shelters, Arnab, who was the point of contact for buyers, told TNIE, "I have put in my papers. I have nothing to do with the company anymore." Despite repeated calls and messages, proprietor Anand Reddy could not be reached for comment.

8 YEARS ON

Kempegowda Study Centre incomplete, neglected

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Study and Research Centre, planned as a tribute to the founder of Bengaluru, has become an example of neglect and stalled progress. Located at Jnanabharathi University campus, this Rs 100-crore project, intended to showcase Kempegowda's legacy, now lies incomplete, with the site turning into an open defecation zone for residents and labourers working there.

Launched in 2016 with a Rs 100 crore budget, the study centre was planned to feature a museum, a 30-foot bronze statue of Kempegowda, an air-conditioned auditorium, and other facilities. Yet, nearly eight years later, the site stands incomplete.

The under-construction centre has become a sanitation nightmare. Students told TNIE that labourers and local residents around the area have been using it as a site for open defecation, turning it into a public health concern. Moreover, students lament that the crumbling university compound wall adds to the problem by allowing entry of people, making the area unsafe.

While the BBMP engineers claim the project resumed recently after years of stagnation, they also mention that it may still take at least two more years to finish.

The foundation for the project was laid in 2017 by the seer of Sri Adichunchanagiri Mutt, Nirmalanandanath Swami. It was also relaunched during Kempegowda's 511th birth anniversary in 2021 by the then Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa. Other similar projects, like the Dr BR Ambedkar School of Economics University and a girls hostel were launched around the same time and have been completed and are already operational.

A senior official from the Economics department of the university told TNIE that the lack of security at the campus due to broken walls in the university premises has also made it a hotspot for sandalwood theft, adding another layer of mismanagement. The study centre was intended to honour Kempegowda's contributions to Bengaluru with a state-of-the-art facility celebrating his vision and achievements. Instead, it has become a symbol of neglect and unfulfilled promises, the official lamented.

B'luru-Chennai expressway opens to traffic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

The Karnataka stretch of the Bengaluru-Chennai expressway is complete and open for traffic, and is used for long drives and jolly rides. The 260-km expressway, which is yet to be completed in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, is expected to be fully operational by August 2025.

As the 71-km Karnataka stretch is open, it is used by locals who live around the expressway and by those who want to go on a long drive till the end of the road and back.

A temple at Jinnagera Cross near Hoskote had slowed down our work. The temple was relocated and work on the 400-metre stretch is now over. Except for some minor works, the road is open for people, NHAI officials said.

"The expressway has exit points at Malur, Bangarpet and Bethamangala. As the entire stretch is yet to be completed, we are not collecting any toll fee. The expressway is now used by locals around the stretch and those who go on long drives," an official said.

The expressway cuts through three states -- Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu -- and has a maximum speed limit of 120km per hour. It aims to reduce travel time between Bengaluru and Chennai, which now takes over six hours, to within three hours.

STATE STRETCHES

Construction of the four-lane expressway was divided into three packages in Karnataka:

PACKAGE 1: Between Hoskote & Malur, covering 27.1km

PACKAGE 2: Between Malur and Bangarpet, covering 27.1km

PACKAGE 3: between Bangarpet and Bethamangala, covering 17.5km

PES University holds 9th Annual Convocation

Bengaluru: "Have an action plan for the next five to seven years, that will help shape career path," said Rashmikant Joshi, Managing Director of Festo India Pvt Ltd. He was addressing graduates at the ninth annual convocation of PES University held on Saturday at its campus, which was presided by Prof D Jawahar, Pro-Chancellor.

Sarakki bus stop turns into garbage dump, commuters fight stench

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

SARAKKI bus shelter in South Bengaluru has become a garbage dump, forcing the bus commuters to stand amidst stink till their bus arrives. As the bus shelter is dumped with vegetable and other waste from the nearby markets, commuters face significant challenges due to the foul-smelling emanating from the waste. As the stench is unbearable, passengers are forced to stand on roadside.

As several commuters use BMTC bus regularly, three bus shelters were set up at the Sarakki bus stop on either side of the road. There are three bus shelters on one side and two on the other, located next to the J P Nagar metro station. The stretch is surrounded by markets, where vendors often dispose off their waste. This waste frequently spills over into the bus shelter.

Speaking to TNIE, Ramesh, daily commuter, explained that the shelters are often unusable due to the garbage and other factors. "Many commuters are forced to stand on the roadside, risking their safety, due to foul smell emanating from the uncleared garbage waste near the shelters," he said, adding vendors throw their waste on the roads, which directly affects daily commuters.

Garbage dumped at a bus stop near Sarakki junction at JP Nagar on Sunday | EXPRESS

"Also many a times, vehicles will be parked in front of the bus shelters blocking our view of the approaching bus, forcing us to stand on road. The authorities need to take strict action," he urged.

Neethu, another commuter, expressed frustration over the persistent garbage issue. Despite periodic cleaning efforts, the situation remains same.

"At night, the situation worsens. The bus shelters become place for homeless individuals and intoxicated people, adding to the discomfort of commuters," she said, adding vendors should be educated about the hygiene, and BBMP should put the garbage bins as it the area has market and has high number of commuters. She pointed out that the problem is not limited to Sarakki bus shelter, but the same situation prevails at the Banashankari metro station too, which is nearby Sarakki.

Jeethu Patel, an electronic shop owner near the market area noted that improper waste disposal by vendors is a major issue. "There is no proper waste management near the market, and vendors throw garbage on the road. The bus stands stink because of it," he said.

When TNIE attempted to know why the vendors were disposing the garbage at the bus shelter, they refused to talk. BBMP officials were not available for comments.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

09TH December : I love Monday, perhaps because it's the Moon's Day. This is a planet about which we have woven so many myths. In most cultures it's seen as a goddess, sometimes a young maiden, in others a mother or wise old woman. Whatever the case, the message is that it looks down on us - and looks after us. Well, it's a nice idea!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
There's great optimism in your chart today and, in my opinion, you can exploit it to the full. If you meet what seems like an insurmountable obstacle, you may overcome it by sheer belief. In the end, you may be forced to slow down, relax and put your feet up!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Pull out all the stops and, whatever else happens, don't allow anyone to convince you that your ideas and schemes are impractical. Actually, the twist is that it doesn't matter whether they're practical or not. What is important is your ability to improve the quality of your life in any way that suits you.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Mercury's curious motion now affords you the perfect opportunity to give time and thought to what can only be described as affairs of the heart. Don't shy away from analysing your feelings, for if you understand your desires, then you'll also realise why you are attracted to a certain sort of person.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
I know it takes an enormous amount of courage to let go and walk away from difficult situations, but the result will be a massive growth in your self-confidence. You will have realised that you really do have the power to free yourself from the past.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You are now in the closing stages of planetary alignments more inherently helpful than any which are due to return until well into the next decade. Your goal now is to turn the world on its head, transforming lingering problems into major advantages.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
It's good to spare some time for monetary matters, although not to the exclusion of everything else. Do pay very great attention to partners' wants and needs. You've been behaving like a person in a great hurry recently, but have you really thought about where you're going? Pause for a moment - and ponder.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Obviously this is a tricky time for finances but, then, what's new? One thing I can promise is that recent problems lie firmly in the past, and that you may now get on and make a few very wise long-term decisions. That doesn't mean life won't be free of difficulties - it's just that they'll be different ones!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You may be in the mood for fun. Even if you're at work, the key to a productive day is creative self-expression. This means you've got to do what you want, and the authorities had better realise it! Mind you, don't imagine that you're always right. You're not!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Matters close to home still require your attention, so do be prepared to rise to the challenge at a moment's notice. Remember that it's in the nature of today's sensitive lunar alignments that you require extra sympathy and affection. But use your intuition wisely.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Try to remember that current planetary activity complements your financial prospects - and keep your hopes up. Even what now seem to be highly unlikely possibilities will look very different by the beginning of next week. Nothing is for ever, despite what it feels like at the time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
The important thing in your life at the moment is partnership. Beyond the daily ups and downs of your various emotional and professional relationships lies the fundamental issue of what you actually are looking for from other people. It could be financial security - and there's nothing wrong with that.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Stay busy, keep active and don't duck out of responsibilities now. As far as financial affairs are concerned, I'd say that you have about a week left in which to take the initiative and sort out a whole host of complications. After that, you'll have to shift the burden on to others!

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

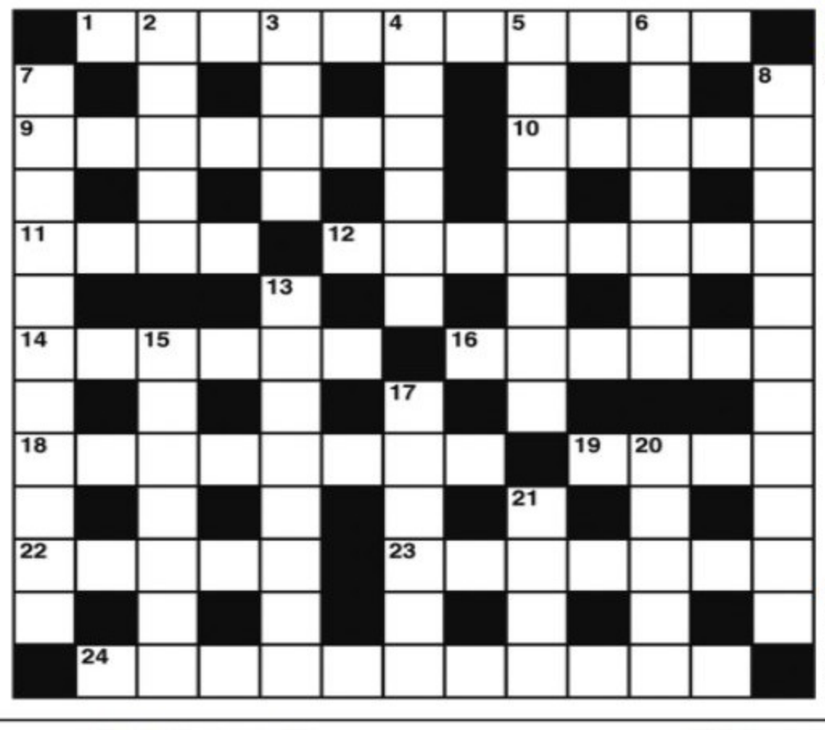
7	5	8	1		6			
	4					5		
9				3	2	7	8	4
			8		4	6		
		5		6		9		
		9	2		3			
1	6	7	3	8				9
		4					5	
			4		7	3	6	8

7	1	6	8	4	5	2	9	3
2	4	8	9	1	3	7	5	6
5	9	3	6	7	2	8	1	4
3	2	7	1	9	8	6	4	5
8	6	4	5	3	7	9	2	1
1	5	9	2	6	4	3	8	7
6	7	2	4	8	1	5	3	9
4	3	5	7	2	9	1	6	8
9	8	1	3	5	6	4	7	2

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Loves mechanical gadgets (11)
9 Managed to fire rifle (7)
10 Character in The Tempest or one in Lear maybe (5)
11 One may get one's hooks into them (4)
12 Where questions of guilt are decided for damages (8)
14 A leader perhaps but he won't lead (6)
16 Type inclined to be emphatic (6)
18 Record showing the range of a singer's voice (8)
19 Morsel for a cat (4)
22 I get on both sides of the plant (5)
23 Huntress follows in a state (7)
24 A supporter who arouses enthusiasm (11)

DOWN

2 It may be perfect (5)
3 A mother and father figure (4)
4 Such walking takes longer if there's no hitch (6)
5 Girl and cleric having no right to withdraw (8)
6 Minor gets four in a test (7)
7 A question of sentry duty? (6,2,3)
8 Yet it could be open conflict (5,6)
13 Be sensible and take a look around Essen (3,5)
15 Grief caused by a mishap with his gun (7)
17 It ensures a good reception for some speakers (6)
20 Find a very small amount (5)
21 Plan a little hideaway (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Floats, 4 Charming, 9 Archer, 10 Duellist, 12 Lump, 13 Bored, 14 Blue, 17 Street trader, 20 Love interest, 23 About, 24 Offer, 25 Diva, 28 Oleander, 29 Seadog, 30 Founders, 31 Spirit.

Down: 1 Rawlers, 2 Once more, 3 Then, 5 Housepainter, 6 Rule, 7 Icicle, 8 Gather, 11 Bottle of beer, 15 Melon, 16 Sever, 18 Bewilder, 19 Straight, 21 Lay off, 22 Bureau, 26 Enid, 27 Heap.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

TPTEY

VCREO

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

_____ _____ THE _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: RISKY PERCH HYMNAL PAPAYA
Answer: When they realized mosquitoes were inside their tent, they weren't — HAPPY CAMPERS

The Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA) hosted a National Health Summit 2024 on Sunday, to provide an essential platform for healthcare leaders, policymakers, and experts to discuss the pressing challenges and innovative solutions shaping the future of healthcare in India. The theme was 'Innovations to Implementation for a Healthy India'

CCB COPS REGISTER FIR OVER ALLEGED MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN CAR

During audit, a shortfall of ₹59.8 lakh was found; Duo to be issued notices

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Central Crime Branch (CCB) police registered an FIR over allegations of misappropriation of funds to the tune of Rs 59.8 lakh in the central unit of the City Armed Reserve (CAR). A complaint in this connection is filed by CAR's assistant administrative officer (AAO) D Rajalakshmi. The accused has been identified as DS Prashanth, Second Division Assistant (SDA) and B Saroja, retired AAO.

According to the FIR, during the audit of financial transactions between 2020 and 2023, a shortfall of Rs 59.80 lakh was found. The deficit was found in the amount deposited into the bank account under the name 'Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) CAR,' and unauthorised transactions were reported by the Accounts Officer. At the time, Saroja was serving as the AAO, and Prashanth was the special officer in charge of the cash branch, the complaint stated.

"The authority to approve the files submitted by Prashanth rested with Saroja. Prashanth was in-charge of managing the departmental transactions of the CAR central unit, but after he was transferred, no charge was handed over to the successor. Furthermore, Saroja, the then AAO, failed to take disciplinary action regarding the unauthorised transactions and did not provide proper responses or documents during the departmental inquiry," the complaint further mentioned.

The complainant demanded action against the two officials for cheating and criminal breach of trust by failing to pay Rs 59,80,839. B Saroja retired in May, while DS Prashanth is still in service. The CCB police have stated that both officials will be issued notices and an inquiry will be conducted.

26-year-old nurse accuses friend of drugging, raping her

BENGALURU: A 26-year-old woman has alleged that her friend raped her after giving her sleeping pills. The accused also allegedly used casteist slurs against her and threatened to release her private videos on social media. The High Grounds police have registered a case. The accused has been identified as Akki Lakshmireddy, a native of Andhra Pradesh.

According to the FIR, the woman, a nurse at a hospital in the city, met Lakshmireddy in 2019 at a bank in RT Nagar, where he worked in the credit card department. The two became friends and often had casual phone conversations. In November 2019, Lakshmireddy invited the victim to his sister's birthday party in RT Nagar. During the party, he allegedly gave her tea laced with sleeping pills, raped her, and recorded the incident. Using these videos, the accused allegedly sexually assaulted the victim multiple times. The accused is reported to have insulted the victim's caste and used abusive language against her and her family. The case has been registered at the High Grounds police station. ENS

CRIME PATROL

Landlord's son assaults woman tenant, held

BENGALURU: The Sanjaynagar police arrested a 40-year-old man for allegedly assaulting, verbally abusing and touching a woman tenant inappropriately in their apartment located in Nagashettyhalli. The accused is Manjunatha Gowda, the son of the apartment owner, who has criminal antecedents. The victim, hailing from West Bengal, resided at the rented flat on the third floor of the building and works at a hotel. The police said that on December 3, around 10.30 pm, when the victim had gone to collect a food parcel near the apartment gate, an intoxicated Gowda approached her and started verbally abusing her. The victim ignored him as he was intoxicated. Later, he slapped her, tried to block her way, and bit her finger while she tried to escape. The victim screamed and ran towards her flat, while the accused followed her. The next day, the accused called her and threatened of dire consequences if she filed a complaint. The victim filed a complaint. ENS

Tower Exchange fraud: Court rejects anticipatory bail pleas

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

THE Principal City Civil and Sessions Court dismissed the anticipatory bail pleas of Manish Kumar and Rahul Kumar Raja, natives of Bihar, who allegedly cheated several persons by inducing them to invest for higher returns through Tower Exchange app. The accused moved court for anticipatory bail in connection with a case registered by cybercrime police against Tower Exchange app and others under the the IT Act, IPC and Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019, based on a complaint filed by Sachin Prakash Shet in 2021.

In the order rejecting the petitions, the Principal City Civil and Sessions Judge Muralidhar Pai B said investigation done so far has revealed that Manish Kumar, being CEO, and Rahul Kumar Raja, being director of Su Paul Services Private Ltd, collected money as investment through bank accounts and the accusation made against them is grave. The court said the facts and circumstances of the case gave an impression that the investigating agency could not make a major headway in the probe because of the modus operandi used by the accused, making use of technology, and also because of non-cooperation on the part of the petitioners.

The CID said it had found a deposit of the amount collected through Tower Exchange Group in a bank account of Su Paul Services Private Ltd. It was stated that on July 2, 2024, investigating agency officials had visited Millennium Aviation Academy in Patna, which was being run by the petitioners, and came to know that Manish Kumar had gone abroad and Rahul Kumar Raja had not come for duty on that day. As the petitioners failed to appear before the investigating officer on July 8, 2024, another notice was issued on July 9, calling on them to appear on July 15, but they have not come up with any explanation, the CID told court.

IN THE COURT OF I ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU

OS No. 01/2008

BETWEEN: Smt. Manjula & Otrs ...**Plaintiff**

AND : Hanumanthappa & others...**Defendants**

To, 07. Smt. Ambika, W/o N.Bangarappa, Aged about 34 years, R/at No.4, 3rd Cross, Chamundeshwari Layout, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru-560 097. **10.** Smt. Prasidha Uday Kumar, W/o C.S. Uday Kumar, Aged about 31 years, residing at No.87, Subbannapalya, Indira Street, Venkataswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560 033. **11.** Sri. Uday Kumar C.S. S/o late Shankar, Aged about 39 years, residing at No.87, Subbannapalya, Indira Street, Venkataswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560 033. **12.** Sri. R Prashanth Koppula, S/o K.N. Rao, Aged about 43 years, R/at No.2, Lake View, Defence Colony, Jalahalli West, Bengaluru-560 015. **14.** Smt. G. Padmavathi, W/o M.Narasaiah, Aged about 63 years, R/at No.2420, E-Block, 10th Cross, 12th Main, Sahakara Nagar, Bengaluru-560 092. **15.** Sri. Sartchandra Annapu Reddy, S/o Annapu Veera Reddy, Aged about 39 years, R/at No. 405, Tower 5-6, Smodville Patel, Neo Town, Electronic City, Bengaluru-560 100. **16.** Smt. Shoba Reddy, W/o N.K.Venkata Reddy, Aged about 31 years, R/at No.31/1, Rukmani Srinivasa Building, Near Sujatha Ravindra Choultry V.V. Extn. Hoskote Town, Bengaluru Rural District. **19.** Sri. A. Ramaiah, S/o A.Balavenkataiah, Aged about 45 years, R/at No.218, 4th Cross, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyana Nagara, Bengaluru-560 040. **22.** Sri Narayanaswamy, S/o.Muniyappa, Aged about 54 years, R/at C/o.Anjinappa Building, Teachers Layout, Kannurahalli Main Road, M.V. Extension Hoskote Town, Bangalore Rural District. **28.** Sri Musalireddygari Venkata Sudhakar Reddy, S/o. Musalireddygari Venkata Subba Reddy, Aged about 32 years, R/at C/o.Muniyappa, No. 70/5, Opp: MJH Apartment JCR Layout, Panathur, Bangalore-506 103. **30.** Sri. Anup Reddy Sarat Chandra, S/o.Anup Reddy Veera Reddy, Aged about 38 years, R/at S-6-405, Smondoville-I Patel Neo Town, Electronic City, Bangalore-560 100. **32.** Sri C.Narayanaswamy, S/o.late Channappa, Aged about 45 years, R/at Doddagattiganabbi Main Road, 6th Cross, Basaveshwaranagar, M.V. Extension, Near Cauvery Water Supply Hoskote Town, Bangalore District. **40.** Sri V.Shivakumar, S/o.K.Veere Gowda, Aged about 49 years, R/a.C/o.Seetharam Building Hosapalya, Someshwarapalya, Mulabagal Town, Kolar District. **45.** Smt.Mediboina Nagaratnamma, W/o. Mediboina Srinivas, Aged about 37 years, R/at No.98, 3rd Cross, Bhuvaneshwarinagar Hebbal, Kempapura, Bangalore-560 024. **48.** Smt.Ambika, W/o.N.Bangarappa, Aged about 35 years, R/at No.4, 3rd Cross, Chamundeshwari Layout, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore-560 097. **52.** Smt. Prasidha Udayakumar, W/o Uday Kumar C.S., Aged about 36 years, R/at No. 87, Subbannapalya, Indira Street, Venkataswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560 033. **53.** Sri. Udaykumar C.S., W/o late Shankar CP. Aged about 36 years, R/at No. 87, Subbannapalya, Indira Street, Venkataswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560 033. **57.** Sri.C.Muniyappa, S/o Chennappa, Aged about 40 years, R/at No. 12, Teachers Colony, V.V. Extension. Hoskote, Bengaluru Rural District. **58.** Sri.C. Narayanaswamy, S/o Chennappa, Aged about 45 years, R/at 6th Cross, Basaveshwara Nagar, M.V. Extension, Near Kaveri Water Supply Extn., Hoskote Town, Bengaluru Rural District. **61.** Sri. Mohan B.G., S/o Girijeshwara B.A., Aged about 35 years, R/at Bandhahalli Village, Karagada Post, Bellur Taluk, Hassan District. **62.** Sri. Anne Boina Ramaiah, S/o late Balavenkatesh, Aged about 46 years, R/at No.218, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, HRBR Layout, 3rd Block, Kalyananagar, Bengaluru-560 043. **64.** Sri. Raghunatha T.N., S/o Narayanaswamy, Aged about 29 years, R/at Thavatahalli Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Plaintiffs have filed the above Suit against the Defendants in **OS No. 01/2008 before THE COURT OF I ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU.**

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1 : All that part and parcel of land beating Sy. No.40, measuring 3 acres 26 guntas, situated at Bandebommasandra, Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District bounded on:- East by: Property bearing Sy.No.42/1, West by: Property belongs to Mesthrappa North by: Property belongs to Mesthrappa South by: Property belongs to Narasimaiah. **Item No.2 :** All that part and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 42/1, measuring 2 acres 26 guntas, including kharab 2 guntas, situated at Bandebommasandra Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on: East by: Property belongs to Mesthrappa, West by: Property belongs to Hanumanthappa, North by : Property belongs to Narasimhaiah, South by : Property belongs to Narasimiah. **Item No.3:** All that part and parcel of land bearing Sy. No.42/2, measuring 2 acres 14 guntas, situated at Bandebommasandra Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on :- East by: Property belongs to Mesthrappa, West by: Property belongs to Sanjeevappa, North by: Property bearing Sy. No.41, South by: Anagalpura boundary. **Item No.4:** All that part and parcel of land bearing Sy No.27/2, measuring 25 guntas, situated at Bandebommasandra Village. Bidrahalli Hobli Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on :- East by: Property bearing Sy. No.26, West by: Property beating Sy. No.42, North by: Property bearing Sy. No.23, South by: Property bearing Sy. No.45. **Item No.5 :** All that part and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 41/2, measuring 3.8 guntas, situated at Bandebommasandra Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on :- East by: Property bearing Sy. No.44, West by: Property bearing Sy No.38, North by: Property bearing Sy. No 40, South by Property bearing Sy. No 42. **Item No. 6 :** All that part and parcel of house property bearing Janjaru No.69. Property No.66, measuring 10ft. X 49 ft. situated at Bandebommasandra Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on:- East by: Property belongs to Narasammna, West by: Property belongs to Hanumantha, North by: Property belongs to Shivarana Reddy, Road, South by: Road. **Item No.7:** All that part and parcel of house property bearing Janjaru No.13, Property No 12, measuring 26ft X 14ft situated at Bandebonumasandra Village Bidrahalli Hobli. Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on :- East by: Property belongs to Nawan, West by: Pathway, North by: Property belongs to Narayanappa, South by: Property belongs to Muddappa.

Interested parties are hereby directed to appear in the Hon'ble Court either in person or through pleader **on 10.1.2025 at 11:00 a.m.** to show cause against the Petitioner, failing which the case will be heard and determined.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this the 7th day of December 2024.

By order of the Court, CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICE, Senior Civil Judge Court, Bengaluru Rural District., Bengaluru.

Advocate for Petitioner :

Anantha Kashyap & Shrikanta Sharma

#3/2, Thimmaiah Towers, 2nd Floor, behind D-mart, 1st Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009. Mob: 9845842531

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) No. 1475 OF 2021
WITH
LA. No. 40859/2021 - APPLICATION FOR APLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING ORIGINAL VAKALATNAMA/OTHER DOCUMENT

PC MOHAN — **Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)**

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (SOUTH) AND ANOTHER — **VERSUS** — **Respondent(s)**

To,

1.ANANDA TR S/o TS RANGANATHA, R/O 922, 3RD CROSS, SRIRAMPURAM, BANGALORE, KARNATAKA - 560021 — **PID: 257047/2024 FOR R(2) IN SLP(CRL) NO.1475/2021 (SEC II-C)**

WHEREAS the Petition for Special Leave to Appeal with application above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by **Mr. T. MAHIPAL,** Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner above named was listed for hearing before the Honb'le Court on **01st March, 2021**, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"Issue notice returnable in two weeks.

in the meanwhile, there shall be stay of operation of the impugned judgment and order dated 05.01.2021 passed by the High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru in Writ Petition No. 51914 of 2019 (GM-RES).

AND WHEREAS the service is not complete on respondent no 2, the matter above mentioned was listed time to time and lastly listed before the Honb'le Judge-in-Chamber on **11th November, 2024,** when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"IA. No. 221844 of 2024:-

The present application for substituted service on respondent no. 2 is allowed. Accordingly, the petitioner is permitted to serve notice on respondent no. 2 by way of publication in local daily newspapers "Indian Express" Bangalore Edition and "Udaya Kaala" being an English and Kannada respectively.

Let the affidavit of proof of service be filed within four weeks."

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above matter(s) will be posted for hearing before this Court tentatively on **26th November, 2024** at 10.30 0' Clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as may be convenient to the Court when you may appear before the court either in person or through Counsel and show cause to the Court as to why Special Leave and interim relief as prayed for be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 6 of Order XXII, S.C.R.2013 well before the next date of hearing, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated : **18th November, 2024**

Sd/-
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Note:

[1] "LEGAL AID: Legal service of an advocate is provided by the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee and the Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society to eligible Litigants.

For further information, please contact the Secretary, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee or the Member Secretary, Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society, 107-108, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block - Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel Nos. Oil - 23116353,23116354 (Additional Building Complex) and 011-23381257 (Front Office))

[2] MEDIATION: The facility of amicable settlement of disputes by trained mediators in cases pending in the Supreme Court is available in the Supreme Court.

For further information, please contact the Co-ordinator, Supreme Court Mediation Center, 109, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block-Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel No. 011-2307432).

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA STATE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY

SLOW DOWN!

FOLLOW THE SPEED LIMIT FOR SAFETY

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

KARNATAKA accounted for

- **8.6%** of the total fatalities from road crashes in India in 2022.
- A **17%** rise in fatalities and an **18%** rise in injuries were recorded in 2022 compared to 2021.
- Overspeeding was responsible for **93%** of all road fatalities and over **91%** of road injuries in the state.

* SOURCE : Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Report 2021, 2022;
Karnataka State Police Report, 2023

Overspeeding is a punishable offence under **Section - 183** of **Motor Vehicle Act 1988**

A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE IN YOUR SPEED CAN DECIDE WHETHER YOU WILL LIVE OR DIE.

Protecting public property and refraining from violence
A constitutional fundamental duty of every Indian

Road Safety - Our Priority

Dr. N.V. Prasad I.A.S.
Secretary
Transport Department

A.M. Yogesh I.A.S.
Commissioner
Transport & Road Safety

J. Purushotham
Additional Commissioner & Member Secretary
Karnataka State Road Safety Authority

Only Karnataka is providing 10 kg of rice in the country. We provide 5 kg of rice and give money equivalent to 5 kg. The Centre, despite having rice in stock, did not distribute it. If the BJP is providing 10 kg of rice in any state, I will resign immediately, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

ALL EYES ON BELAGAVI AS 10-DAY WINTER SESSION BEGINS TODAY

Debate on development of North Karnataka expected to be highlight of first two days | BJP plans to corner Siddaramaiah govt on various issues such as MUDA, ST Corpn & Waqf Board | At least five major Bills to be tabled, 3,004 questions received, says Speaker UT Khader

Painting of Anubhava Mantapa

A mammoth painting of Anubhava Mantapa established by the 12th-century reformer Lord Basaveshwara will be unveiled at the Suvarna Vidhan Soudha by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a programme to be held at 10.30 am on Monday. The Belagavi district administration has decided to light earthen lamps in 30 important circles in Belagavi, similar to the Dasara festivities of Mysuru. A unique science park established near the Soudha will also be inaugurated

(Left) Speaker UT Khader inspects the Assembly Hall in Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on the eve of the winter session of legislature, in Belagavi on Sunday; Last-minute infrastructure works outside the Soudha | EXPRESS

Special flight

IndiGo will be operating an A320 aircraft during the morning hours from Belagavi to Bengaluru from December 9 to 19 for the convenience of the guests arriving for the session from Bengaluru. The The flight will leave Bengaluru at 6 am and reach Belagavi at 7 am. It will leave Belagavi at 7.30 am and reach Bengaluru at 8.30 am

Session likely to put a lid on groupism in BJP, Congress

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

THE 10-day winter session of the state legislature that commences in Belagavi on Monday is likely to put a lid on factionalism and power politics within the Ruling the Congress and the Opposition BJP for the time being. The issue of the change of guard in the state is expected to die down as the Congress has to reply to the allegations levelled against the government by BJP and JDS, including various corruption charges and Waqf land issue.

Last week, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that there was a pact at the high command level on changing the CM after two-and-a-half years. But CM Siddaramaiah had indirectly hit back, saying that there was no such pact. Shivakumar, albeit with sarcasm, agreed to the CM. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, too, supported Siddaramaiah. Shivakumar later suggested that Congress leaders should not discuss the issue.

However, KH Muniayppal, another Dalit leader and the Food and Civil Supplies Minister, had said that there was a pact on power sharing.

Now for at least the next 10 days, the issue may get sidelined as the ministers have the task of countering the allegations made by the Opposition parties.

In the BJP camp, the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka is likely to take along all the legislators identified with different groups to corner the Congress government.

Ashoka, being a neutral leader, is on good terms with Vijayapura City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, a strong critic of state BJP president BY Vijayendra and former CM BS Yediyurappa. This will come in handy for Ashoka to calm down Yatnal from firing salvos against Vijayendra and instead focus on the issues to corner the Congress government.

The BJP has called for a legislature party meeting on Monday evening. In the Council, LoP Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and senior leader CT Ravi are likely to put the Congress on the mat on several key issues.

Also, JDSLP leader CB Suresh Babu is expected to extend support to alliance partner BJP. But it would be interesting to see if sulking Chamundeshwari MLA and senior JDS leader GT Devegowda will support the NDA over several issues, including the MUDA case against Siddaramaiah, as the former had turned a sympathiser to the latter. Apart from Gowda, dissident BJP MLAs ST Somashekar and Shivaram Hebbar are likely to cause an embarrassment to the saffron party.

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

BESIDES discussions on a series of development issues, several contentious matters pertaining to the alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), the Waqf land issue, and ST Corporation fund misuse are expected to be the major subjects of debate in the 10-day winter session of the state legislature, which gets underway at Suvarna Vidhan Soudha in Belagavi from Monday.

Even as the Opposition BJP and JDS are geared up to target the Congress government on the contentious issues both inside and outside the House, it will be interesting to see how the things unfold when the issues take the centre stage.

While Assembly Speaker UT Khader and Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti are optimistic about having constructive debates on all important issues, it remains to be seen whether the turnout of members in both the Houses will be satisfactory when the important issues are raised for discussions. Horatti, however, said that he would hold discussions with members to ensure an effective and successful session by avoiding the needless protests inside the House.

At least five major Bills, including three private ones, will be tabled during the session by the government, and many of the major development issues of North Karnataka region will be discussed during the first two days. A debate on the development of Kalyana Karnataka and Kittur Karnataka is expected to be the highlight of the first two days of the session during which the members may discuss the inability of the government to get the Mahadayi project implemented and expedite the Upper Krishna Project (UKP) pending irrigation projects besides a string of other issues.

According to Khader, the newly elected MLAs from Shiggaon, Channapattana and Sandur would take oath on the inaugural day of the session, followed by a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. He said a marathon debate was likely on the five Bills to be brought in the House during the 10-day session.

According to Belagavi Police Commissioner Iada Martin Marbaniang, at least 6,000 policemen have been deployed to ensure security and law and order in the city during the session. He said about 64 organisations submitted applications demanding permission to stage protests during the session near the Soudha.

Most of the hotels, resorts and lodges in Belagavi city have been booked for thousands of guests, including ministers, MLAs, officials and other guests who will be staying in here for the session for the next 10 days. According to sources, the government will be spending Rs 25 crore on the organisation of the winter session in Belagavi this time.

To ensure security and a peaceful session, the Belagavi police have initiated stringent measures to halt pro-Maharashtra groups from holding a parallel session. Measures have been taken to avoid any of the pro-Maharashtra leaders from addressing rallies and delivering provocative speeches with regard to the language dispute on the border during the session, according to sources.

K'taka not facing any financial crisis, says Siddu

Hubballi : Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that Karnataka was not facing any financial crisis. The Opposition BJP is telling lies and misleading people, Siddaramaiah said at the Hubballi airport on Sunday before leaving for Savanur in Haveri district. "The schemes announced by the State Government have not been stalled and the programmes are running smoothly. It is ironical that the BJP is opposing guarantee schemes in Karnataka and on the other hand, it is announcing guarantee schemes in other states," Siddaramaiah said. He said issues pertaining to the development of North Karnataka will be discussed during the 10-day winter session. "The government is fully prepared to face the Opposition," he added. **ENS**

The government is spending close to Rs 25 crore towards the winter session - **UT Khader, Speaker**

The Congress government is fully prepared to face the Opposition - **Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister**

Vote share of JDS (Nikhil) should've increased due to alliance with BJP, but it did not - **Krishna Byre Gowda, Min**

Speaker stresses on cooperation from all sides

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

ASSEMBLY Speaker UT Khader on Sunday said that cooperation from both the Ruling and Opposition members is needed to make the winter session of the legislature to be held in Belagavi from December 9 to 20 a success.

Speaking to the media after reviewing the preparations at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on Sunday, Khader said that issues concerning the entire state, with priority to North Karnataka, should be discussed in the course of the 10-day session.

The session will officially begin at 11 am on December 9. At 10.30 am, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will unveil a large oil painting of the historic Anubhava Mantapa.

Elaborating on the schedule, Khader said that the three newly elected members will take an oath on the first day. A Budget Advisory Committee meeting will be held in the afternoon, and the agenda of the next session will be discussed and finalised in this meeting. "This time, a lengthy discussion will be held on five Bills. Two ordinance replacement bills will be taken up for consideration. A Question Hour has been scheduled for 10 days in the session. Calling Attention, Zero Hour, and Motion Adjournment will be held. So far, 3,004 questions, 205 attention-grabbing instructions, 96 Rule 351 instructions have been received. In addition, three private Bills have also been received," the Speaker said.

8,500 staffers

A new chair for the Speaker has been made using rosewood in the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi, similar to the one in the Assembly Hall in the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. A total of 8,500 officers and staffers and approximately 6,000 police personnel have been deployed to ensure the smooth functioning of the session. Also, 10 committees have been formed under the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner of Belagavi for various arrangements, including accommodation, transport, food, etc. The government is spending close to Rs 25 crore towards the winter session, he added.

Expo on Gandhi's 100 portraits

An exhibition of commemorative photographs of the 10th Congress session held in Belagavi in 1924 under the presidency of Mahatma Gandhi has been organised for students and teachers coming to watch the session. As many as 100 rare photographs of Mahatma Gandhi will be on display, said Speaker UT Khader.

BJP WANTS TO FINISH OFF JDS, SAYS BYRE GOWDA

MYSURU: Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has accused the BJP of not transferring its votes in the recent Channapatna bypoll to finish off the JDS. Speaking to the media in Mysuru, the minister said that Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy had won the Channapatna seat in 2023 by a margin of over 97,000 votes when there was a triangular contest. On the other hand, Nikhil managed just a little over 87,000 votes in the bypoll. "Where did the BJP votes go?" Gowda asked. "The vote share of the JDS candidate should have considerably increased following the alliance with the BJP. How did the JDS come down to 87,000 votes? One can know from where the votes came to Yogeshwara, the Congress candidate," Gowda added. He felt that the BJP would swallow the JDS in the near future. On DyCM DK Shivakumar in the race for the CM post, Gowda said that the former has been in politics for a long time and that they will get what they deserve. **ENS**

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda takes part in a cyclothon in Mysuru on Sunday

PM lacked courage to accept my challenge: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ballari

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him and his party, the BJP, of spreading lies during election campaigns. Siddaramaiah was speaking at a public event in Sandur, Ballari district, organised to thank the voters for electing Congress candidate Annapoorna Tukaram in the recent bypoll.

The CM accused the PM of lacking the courage to accept his challenge of proving that the Congress government in Karnataka collected bribe money for the Assembly elections in neighbouring Maharashtra.

"The PM and other BJP leaders spread lies ahead of elections. I had challenged the PM to prove his allegations. I had openly declared that I would retire from politics if the charges were proven. As expected, he (Modi) did not respond because he could not substantiate his charges," Siddaramaiah said.

Siddaramaiah expressed his gratitude to the voters of Sandur for their decisive support in the recent bypoll, calling it a reaffirmation of their trust in Congress. Siddaramaiah criticised BJP leader and MLA Gali Janardhana Reddy for turning Ballari into a 'Republic of Fear' using money and coercion to manipulate voters. He praised the people of Sandur for rejecting such tactics and voting for development. "This victory has ent a clear message about the kind of politics the people want. BJP's efforts to tarnish my image through false cases and propaganda had failed. This win proves that the people stand with us. As long as I have their blessings, no conspiracy can shake me," the CM said.

DyCM DK Shivakumar said the total number of MLAs now supporting the Congress is 140. "Two independent and 138 Congress MLAs... we have a strong government. With our guarantees and people-friendly administration, voters have blessed us in the recent bypolls," he said.

BIMS deaths: Compensation raised to ₹5L

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah increased compensation to the kin of each of the deceased to Rs 5 lakh from the earlier Rs 2 lakh. "The deaths are likely caused by the IV fluid. After conducting a meeting, I decided to increase the compensation from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh," the Chief Minister added.

Ballari maternal deaths: Team headed by IAS officer to probe drug procurement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN the wake of the recent deaths of five women in Ballari due to procedural lapses, the state government on Sunday constituted a verification team led by an IAS officer. The team will investigate irregularities in drug procurement by the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (KSMSCL) and also prevent any recurrence.

The team will investigate the violations and recommend necessary reforms in the existing system. The move follows a committee meeting on December 5, chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner. The committee reviewed violations in the procurement of medicines through tender, as well as submission of medicine samples to empanelled laboratories. It also discussed the role of KSMSCL officials and fixing of responsibilities of officials.

The verification team will be headed by Karnataka Skill Development Corporation Managing Director M Kanagavalli, and includes Assistant Drug Controller Venkatesh, microbiologist at Bangalore Medical College Dr Aseema Banu, and a senior professor of pharmacology, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS).

The team has been tasked with submitting a detailed report within five days, outlining the lapses in procurement and testing procedures and recommending corrective actions.

The team will analyze the entire process, starting from issuing of the purchase order for 196 batches of intravenous fluid Ringer's Lactate, up to November 30, 2024. They will investigate any procedural lapses at KSMSCL and fix accountability for the failures. They will also review the current procedures at KSMSCL, comparing them to standard practices.

The team will specifically focus on the empanelment of laboratories, testing of drug samples, and handling of batches that fail quality tests, to identify any gaps in compliance with established protocols.

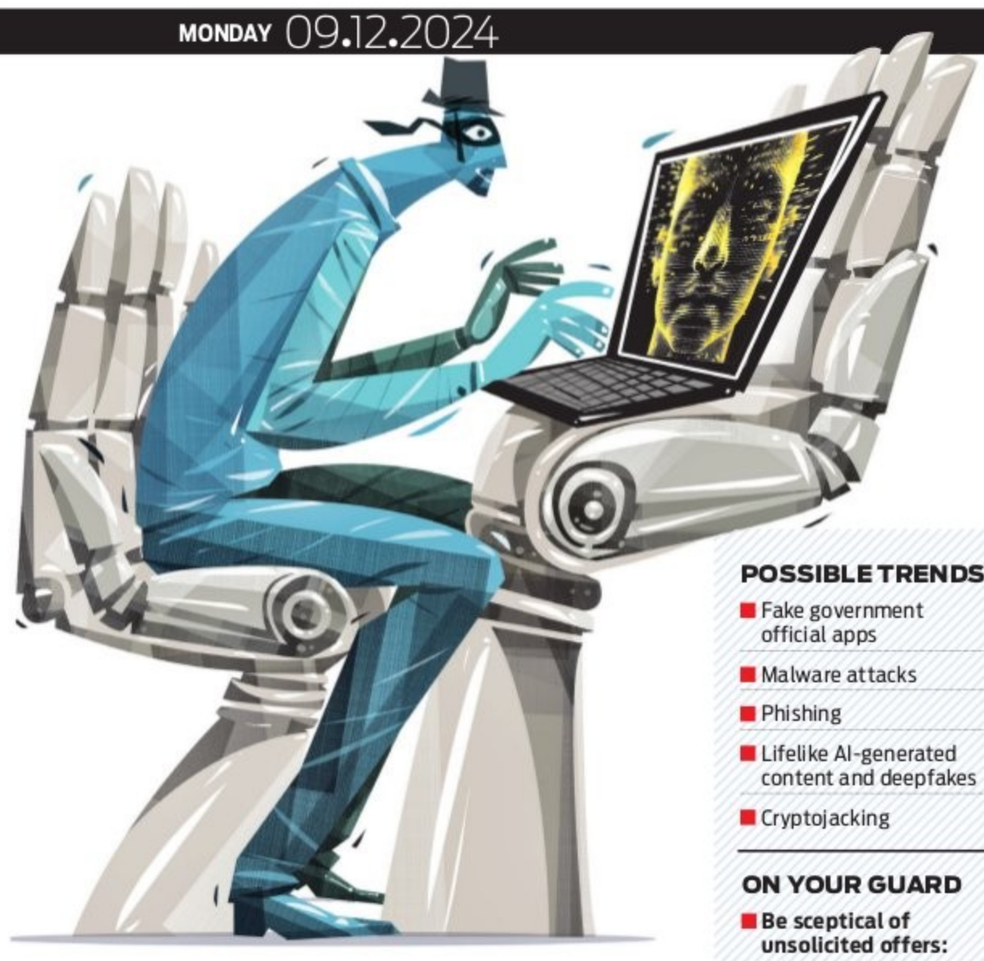
The team will also examine the practices of best performing states, such as Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan, regarding drug procurement, quality testing, and reporting of adverse effects, in order to identify areas where KSMSCL can improve.

The team will seek inputs from the RGUHS vice-chancellor or designated representative, to suggest an effective SOP (standard operating procedure) for public health facilities to follow in future.

NO FUNDS FOR QUALITY DRUGS, JOSHI SLAMS GOVT

HUBBALLI: The State Government has gone bankrupt both financially and intellectually, claims Union Minister and senior BJP leader Pralhad Joshi. He told reporters in Hubballi on Sunday that the state treasury is empty, leaving no funds to procure quality medicines. Instead, the government is purchasing medicines from substandard suppliers, which he attributed as the cause of maternal deaths in Ballari. Joshi expressed anger, stating that government hospitals are running out of medicines, forcing doctors to prescribe drugs which patients have to buy outside. "This Congress State Government has brought the state to such a deplorable condition," he said. On the Ballari incident, Siddaramaiah said there was no scam in the purchase of medicines and all necessary measures are being taken to address the issue. **ENS**

Taking a serious note of the comments of YSRC MP V Vijayasai Reddy on AP CM and TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu, TDP leader Varla Ramaiaha said the comments give rise to doubts that a conspiracy is being hatched threatening the life of CM



FUTURE OF CRIME: AI & DEEPFAKES

Cybercrime trends show that in the coming years, fraudsters will blur reality to loot vulnerable sectors, by targeting their staffers

RISHITA KHANNA & PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

IN 2025, scams won't just knock on your door asking for OTPs or requesting you to click suspicious links — they will come straight to you, looking like people you know and trust. Whether it is a video call from your boss or an official-looking government app offering benefits, cybercriminals will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Deepfakes -- manipulated videos or audio that appear real, to create lifelike traps. With convincing voices, realistic messages and fake platforms, they will make it almost impossible to tell what's real and what's a scam.

A recent report by the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) and Seqrite outlines the alarming evolution of these scams, fuelled by AI and deepfake technology. The report, which projects AI and deepfake generated cyber attacks to double in 2025, warns that cybercriminals are poised to target critical sectors like healthcare and finance with tailored phishing campaigns, fake video messages, and adaptive malware. The report highlights how these attacks will exploit trust, using realistic content and advanced techniques to compromise systems, steal sensitive data, and disrupt essential services.

Upcoming trends

Experts highlight that fraudsters always opt for sectors which are vulnerable. For example, the next trend could be a hospital's staff receiving a video call that appears to be from their director, urgently instructing them to transfer funds to purchase critical medical equipment. In finance, scammers often target employees handling money or sensitive accounts. For instance, a deepfake of a CEO could be used to instruct a finance team member to urgently transfer money to a specific account, claiming it is for a confidential deal.

These scams are dangerous because they blur the line between reality and deception, making it critical for organisations to implement strong verification processes, such as multi-factor authentication and cross-checking requests through independent channels, to safeguard against such threats, experts highlight.

Cyberexperts also warn of increasing fake applications pretending to be official government services and cryptojacking -- hijacking someone's computer to mine cryptocurrency. They advise the government to adopt AI machine learning, a type of AI that learns from data for better threat detection and emphasizes cyber resilience, the ability to recover and adapt from cyberattacks.

Impossible to track

Kuldeep Kumar Jain, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic - East, Bengaluru, who headed the team set up to exclusively deal with courier-related scam cases in 2023, acknowledged that deepfake technology will get more realistic in the coming year. "As deepfakes evolve, tracking and identifying scams will become nearly impossible," he said, adding that the challenges are already significant.

He also pointed out that scams are already at a professional level, with money being transferred to foreign accounts using cryptocurrency or other methods, all hidden under multiple layers. "The key to staying safe is awareness, and always questioning anything that comes from the internet," the senior officer emphasized.

The senior official also mentioned that India has made significant progress in digitization, with more people and businesses using digital platforms for services and transactions. However, he stressed that as digital services grow, it's important for the authorities to set clear rules. He explained that while private banks often try to make things easier for customers, they sometimes bypass regulations. This can lead to easier access to personal information, which can be risky. The official stressed that with these trends expected to continue, central bank authorities need to create stricter rules to protect customer data.

BIG PICTURE

The use of AI-manipulated or generated media, including deepfakes, is already widespread and expected to increase significantly in the coming year.

Rohini Lakshane, independent researcher

What do cyber experts say?

Independent researcher and technologist Rohini Lakshane, who was formerly with The Centre for Internet and Society, mentioned that the use of AI-manipulated or generated media, including deepfakes, is already widespread and expected to increase significantly in the coming year.

She pointed out that some sectors like healthcare and finance are particularly vulnerable to exploitation through deepfakes and AI, as through these industries, scamsters often create a sense of urgency or alarm in the minds of their victims. This urgency makes it difficult for individuals to think clearly and make informed decisions. When deepfakes are used, the situation becomes even more convincing, leaving the victim with little time to determine whether the situation is genuine or a scam. As a result, people often end up losing critical personal information or falling into traps without realizing it, she said.

Zubair Chowgale, head of engineering for the APMEA region at Securonix, a firm that offers solutions to cyber attacks, said that while AI will continue to be rampant in cyberattacks, deepfake-based threats are expected to rise alongside phishing and malware.

He explained that Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks, which flood systems with too much traffic to make them crash, a challenge to do it manually, are now being carried out using AI tools and large language models (LLMs). "These tools study large amounts of data to make the attacks more effective," he said, adding that LLMs are also being used to create fake phishing emails and other scams.

Zubair warned that even malware designed to escape detection is being developed using these same technologies, making online security even harder to manage.

Staff shortage, lack of cyber training

Across Karnataka, cybercrime cases in 2021 totalled around 11,000, but this figure surged to 22,000 in just two years. In Bengaluru, one in four reported crimes is a cybercrime. With cases rising and recovery rates struggling to keep pace, Karnataka recently appointed a dedicated DGP for cybersecurity, becoming the first state to do so.

Police officials believe that post-pandemic, cybercrime has become more complex, with malware evolving into more sophisticated threats. To combat this, they say the department plans to strengthen its cyber forensic capabilities with AI and machine learning. However, officers also reflect on significant gaps as cybercrime police stations are staffed at less than 40 per cent of their required strength, and junior officers, who often handle cases, lack regular training.

POSSIBLE TRENDS

- Fake government official apps
- Malware attacks
- Phishing
- Lifelike AI-generated content and deepfakes
- Cryptojacking

ON YOUR GUARD

- **Be sceptical of unsolicited offers:** Whether it's a new investment opportunity or an urgent request for a donation, always question unsolicited offers, especially if they are delivered via video or audio
- **Check official sources directly:** If you receive a message or call about a government scheme, bank alert or medical issue, visit the official website or call the customer support number to verify its authenticity before taking action
- **Limit voice and video data online:** Be mindful of personal video or voice recordings you share online, as deepfake technology can use them to create fake content; reduce digital footprint when possible to minimize the risk
- **Passwords:** Use strong, different and unique passwords across all apps. Avoid public Wi-Fi for any transactions
- **Suspicious apps or websites:** If an app or website offers a service that seems too good to be true, avoid downloading or interacting with it unless you have verified its legitimacy through trusted sources
- **Don't ignore minor inconsistencies:** If a video looks slightly off — perhaps the background is blurred or speech is out of sync with lip movement — don't brush it off as these could be signs of deepfake technology in use
- **Software updates:** Don't ignore software updates, they include patches for security vulnerabilities

KERALA WAQF ROW

'Not IUML view', Shaji dismisses LoP's stand

ENS @ Kozhikode

IN a significant political development, IUML state secretary K M Shaji has dismissed Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan's claim that the controversial land at Munambam is not a Waqf property. Addressing a public meeting at Koomanna in Malappuram district on Saturday night, Shaji said Satheesan's remark is his personal opinion and that the IUML does not have such a view.

It may be recalled that Satheesan has asserted many times that the land at Munambam is not a Waqf property. He had said the land has been subjected to transactions many times and hence it cannot be a Waqf property. Moreover, he said Waqf should be unconditional, but some conditions were mentioned in the original deed.

"Munambam is a big issue and not a minor one as you think. There are possibilities for a big controversy. The leader of opposition said it is not Waqf land. It is his personal view. IUML has no such opinion," Shaji said.

The IUML leader came down heavily on the Farook College management, for whom the land was given a Waqf. "What right do they (management) have to say that it is not Waqf property? Who are the real culprits in the Munambam issue? It is not the people who purchased the land. Who gave them the land? Who sold Waqf property? Who prepared the documents for them? It is not the responsibility of the IUML, Congress or the CPM to catch them. There is a government to do the duty," he said.

Infrastructure Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Ltd.
4th Floor, IHC Corporate, Mangalagiri, Guntur Dt., 522503,
(Under the control of Infrastructure & Investment Dept., GoAP)

SELECTION OF DEA EMPANLED RETAINER CONSULTANT FOR PROVIDING SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS IDENTIFIED INFRASTUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE A.P. STATE.

Notice No.INCAP/P/Retainer Consultant/02/2021, Dt.09.12.2024
Infrastructure Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Ltd. (INCAP) invites Proposals from DEA Empaneled Consultancy firms for the captioned assignment. Interested consultancy firms may download the Request for Proposal (RFP) document from the website of INCAP @ **www.incap.co.in** on 09.12.2024 @ 11 AM onwards. The last date for submission of the proposals is on or before 15:00 hours IST on 06.01.2025 (in AP e-procurement portal only).

Sd/- Vice Chairman and Managing Director

For any clarifications please send e-mail to:
incapap@incap.co.in, md@incap.co.in

DIPR No.3372PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt: 06/12/2024

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commissionerate of Agriculture,
Seshadri Road, Bengaluru – 560001

No.: DDA(FM&MI)/FM RfP/2024-25 Date: 07.12.2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION

The Department of Agriculture invites Request for Proposals (RFP) from OEM / Manufacturers / Importers for supply of Farm Machineries and Agro Processing Units to farmers under Departmental subsidy Programmes and CHSC Centers. The interested OEM / Manufactures / Importers who are interested to participate in this RFP can submit their proposals through e-Procurement platform **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
The interested OEM / Manufacturers / Importers can download the RfP document through e-Procurement platform by payment of applicable e-Procurement processing fees and the EMD amount as fixed by the Department. Applications for RFP can be downloaded from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **09.12.2024** to **08.01.2025.** The last date for submission of proposals in e-Procurement platform is **08.01.2025, 4:30 p.m.** The Technical proposals will be opened on **10.01.2025** at **11:00 a.m.** in Samruddhi VC Hall, Commissionerate of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001.
The Hard copies (Physical Deposition) of the Technical and Financial Proposals along with other relevant documents uploaded in the e-Procurement portal will be received at the Office of the **Deputy Director of Agriculture (Farm Mechanization & Micro irrigation), Department of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001** upto **4:30 p.m.**, on **09.01.2025.**
The interested Manufacturers / OEM / Importers have to register at the e-procurement cell, **Centre for e-Governance, 4th Floor, Sri Arvinda Bhavan, Mythic Society Compound, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001** and obtain the DSC key or e-token **(Helpdesk: +91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777).**
NOTE: e-Procurement processing fee is non-refundable and Tender documents are non transferable.

Sd/-, Director of Agriculture and Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/CP/LC/3668/2024-25

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

NOTIFICATION

No.: EEE/BMWND/AEE-3/AE-1/2024-25/4704-06 Date: 02.12.2024
The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited have formulated a scheme under section 67 of the Electricity Supply Act 2003 and the same is here with published in pursuance of section 67(ii) of said Act for information of the general public. Particulars of the scheme are as follows

1. Name of the Project: (1). Establishing 2x31.5MVA, 66/11kV GIS Substation at Nagarur Village in Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. **(2).** Running of 66kV 1000Sqmm Double LILO UG cable from existing 66kV Nelamangala-Widia Line (Proposed for DC DRAKE Conversion) to proposed 66/11kV GIS sub-station at Nagarur Village for a route Length of 0.270Kms.

2. Salient Features: (1). Nagarur Village is an ideal load centre where many more projects like residential townships, Layouts & Industries are coming up. There is a huge demand of power supply due to proximity of Bengaluru City and huge potential of load growth **(2).**The problems of low voltages, frequent interruptions in power supply can be overcome and future load growth can be catered in and around the area. **(3).** The load on the existing 66/11kV Nelamangala & Alur substations will be reduced.**(4).** The Improvements in voltage profile and reliability of power supply in and around the Nagarur villages like Alur, Nelamangala, Arishinakunte & Kodipalya. **(5).** The expected annual energy savings of 2.623MU.

3. Estimate Cost of the Project: Rs. 5603.36Lakhs.

The Corporation shall have and exercise all powers, which the telegraph authorities process under Para (iii) of Indian Telegraph Act 1885(13 of 1885) for carrying of the above scheme, objection/ discrepancies to the scheme, if any should be sent to the undersigned within 15 Days from the date of publication of this notification for consideration by the corporation.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Ele.,), Major Works North Division, KPTCL, Anandrao Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

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Foolish to tweak design of Telangana Talli statue: KCR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

BRS president and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly **K Chandrasekhar Rao** on Sunday expressed ire over the Congress government tweaking the design of Telangana Talli statue.

Addressing the BRS Legislative Party meeting held at his Erravelli farmhouse, he said that it was "foolish" of the government to change the design of the statue that, according to him, provided inspiration to Telangana activists during the statehood movement.

"During the statehood movement, the Telangana Talli statue was designed after taking the opinion of all communities. It provided inspiration during our fight for a separate state," he said.

"Changing the design of the statue is nothing but foolishness. Is this what the government wants to do by neglecting development and people's issues," he wondered. The former chief minister asked his MLAs and MLCs to raise the people's issues in the upcoming winter session of the Assembly.

He also asked them to explain to the people the purpose and benefits of Rythu Bandhu and to expose the Congress government's failures in all fields, education sector, Musi project and HYDRAA action. The BRS chief also revealed his plan to organise a public meeting in February to expose the failures of the state government.

Revanth to unveil Telangana Talli statue today

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will unveil the new Telangana Talli statue at the Secretariat at 6.05 pm on Monday. When asked about former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao's participation in the event, he said: "It is KCR's responsibility to grace the programme. If he attends, he will be treated as a true Telanganaite. If not, he will remain a Telangana traitor."

RSS Sarasanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat calls on Sri Krishna Matha seer Sri Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji in Udupi on Sunday | EXPRESS

RSS INAUGURATES NEW OFFICE IN MANGALURU

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru, Mangaluru

RASHTRIYA Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarasanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday inaugurated a brand-new Sangh office near Sanghaniketan in Mangaluru.

It must be noted that the RSS already has significant presence in Dakshin Kannada and Udupi districts. During the inauguration ceremony, Bhagwat paid floral tributes to Bharat Mata. In a symbolic gesture of growth and prosperity, he planted a golden champak tree on the office grounds, signifying the blossoming of new opportunities and strength for the Sangh. The grand opening marked not just a new office, but a new chapter in the Sangh's relentless pursuit of service to the nation, said an official press note. Bhagwat also visited Sri Krishna Matha in Udupi, and called on seer Sri Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji. He also inaugurated an experience theatre 'Anubhava Mantapam' to deliver the message of Bhagavad Gita.

'OTT will bring more revenues, create jobs'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

STATING that the studios wants to release its movies through OTT, Pasha pointed out that they learnt about the Kerala State Government Film Development Corporation operating its own OTT, which is profitable.

To sustain good-quality Malayalam films and preserve Kerala's culture in the digital space, the Kerala government launched 'C-space' early this year. The platform, which streams films, documentaries and short films, follows a pay-per-view model, where users pay for the particular content they watch.

He urged Siddaramaiah that Sree Kanteerava Studios also develop its own OTT and release not only Kannada movies, but also other language content by purchasing them, adding that it will not only be profitable, but will help generate employment.

Pasha has urged the chief minister to provide assistance in developing the OTT platform.

EDITORIAL

"Wanton killing of innocent civilians is terrorism, not a war against terrorism" — Noam Chomsky

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

DRAMATIC DEPARTURE OF ASSAD OFFERS HOPE FOR A NEW DAWN IN SYRIA

IN a tectonic shift in West Asia, Syria dramatically fell to rebel forces led by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham group (HTS), with president Bashar al-Assad fleeing to an undisclosed destination. Assad's capitulation was as sudden and stunning as the HTS blitzkrieg to capture capital Damascus in just 10 days. He had managed to hang on to power when the first revolt against his tyranny began in 2011 at the height of the Arab Spring, having no compunction in using weapons of mass destruction to contain the uprising. In the eventual civil war, more than five lakh people were killed, many of them civilians, and over 60 lakh others became refugees. The once prosperous country was reduced to rubble. It became a festering sore for parasites like the Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State to draw sustenance from.

Israel taking out Hezbollah in Lebanon snapped Iranian supply lines of trained men and material that had kept Assad afloat. And a weakened Russia fighting its own war with Ukraine, stepped back, leaving Assad out in the cold. Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov could do little else but feel "sorry for the Syrian people". With US president-elect Donald Trump indicating a pragmatic hands-off approach, saying, "This is not our war," the Pentagon is at present a bystander. Trump in 2018 had labelled the dictator an animal for using chemical weapons against the rebels. Assad's departure ended a tumultuous five-decade-long rule by his family often with brute force.

While Syrian prime minister Mohammed Ghazi Jalali offered help to install a transitional government amid popular rejoicing on the streets, whether or not the victorious Islamic outfit would be able to restore peace quickly remains to be seen. An offshoot of Al-Qaeda, the HTS later disowned its parent to become more politically acceptable. Yet, rebel commander Hassan Abdul-Ghani ran his Idlib base with an iron fist. Expecting him to be a benign ruler would be naive. The global community, however, ought to nudge Abdul-Ghani into adopting democracy over time while rebuilding the moth-eaten economy. Amid the fluid situation, India has already issued a travel advisory to its citizens to leave Syria. While Assad's exit offers hope for a new dawn, a power vacuum in the interregnum could have unforeseen consequences. For, even a much more stable country like Bangladesh is yet to properly deal with the consequences of the ouster of Sheikh Hasina from power.

MAKE TELANGANA'S GREEN PUSH FOR THE LONG HAUL

AS the Congress government in Telangana completes a year in office, it's unveiling a slew of development works and celebrating the occasion with the slogan 'Telangana Rising'. Though it is yet to keep all its poll promises, it's true that over the last 12 months the government has taken a number of substantive steps including waiving farm loans and executing welfare schemes. But one thing that stands out is its focus on reshaping Hyderabad, the capital.

Its plans for the state's crest jewel will define not only the rest of its tenure, but may also lay the foundation for a lasting legacy. The government has drawn up an action plan to structurally overhaul the city to make it sustainable in the long run. We believe this is the right step forward, given the changing climate and the urgent need to prevent Hyderabad from going the Mumbai or Delhi way. In a bid to preserve lakes—hundreds of which have been encroached over, causing flooding in the rainy season—the government has given top priority to preventing and demolishing unauthorised buildings and taken up the ambitious Musi riverfront development project. The river currently traverses a diverse region that is largely polluted. With a detailed report expected in 18 months, the government expects to clean up and develop it in six years. If everything goes as planned, it could be clean as the Godavari water that's planned to be pumped in.

This is just one of the projects on the anvil. Seen alongside protection of other lakes, cleaning of encroachments, introduction of 3,000 electric buses and eco-friendly development of a fourth city as well as Warangal, the face of Telangana will be very different in the near future. However, all these efforts must be institutionalised one way or another. For instance, Tamil Nadu has a green climate company and Maharashtra too has a council for climate change. Telangana could borrow a leaf out of Tamil Nadu's book and establish a company with the sole mission of combating climate change. It also needs to ensure that in this entire exercise, the people are made aware of the details and, if in danger of displacement, they get fair compensation.

QUICK TAKE

A-LISTERS IN B TOWNS

INDIA has always been a magnet for A-listers of global music. Many come on their own or as guests. But the common refrain till not so long ago was that a multi-city ticketed tour was commercially unviable in India. Michael Jackson's 1996 concert or the Rolling Stones' 2003 one were rare pins on their tour maps. Well, things have changed. Dua Lipa and Maroon 5 performed in Mumbai last week; Coldplay, Ed Sheeran and Green Day have concerts planned over the next three months. Music can make people feel connected to a rapturous global stream. We should welcome stars of many more genres in our smaller cities too.

IT is business as usual for global powers, where the interests of smaller nations find no room in the grand chessboard of geopolitics. Terrorism—once condemned universally—seems to have found a revival as a covert instrument to serve political ends.

This is not coincidental. It stems from a calculated effort to destabilise regions, weaken adversaries, and maintain influence in contested areas. The cost is borne by the innocent, with nations caught in the crossfire struggling to secure their sovereignty in an increasingly volatile world.

As this trend gains momentum, it raises critical questions about accountability, morality, and the long-term consequences of weaponising terror. Who truly benefits from this game of destruction?

The rise of jihadist culture in Afghanistan was no accident; it was a deliberate construct born out of geopolitical manoeuvring during the Cold War. In the late 1970s and 1980s, this ideology was fostered to resist the Soviet invasion.

The nurturing of jihadist factions created a fertile ground for the spread of fundamentalism. This move, aimed at toppling the USSR, had unintended long-term consequences. The extremist groups that emerged did not dissolve with the Soviet withdrawal.

The ideological and logistical support provided during that era laid the foundation for movements that would later fuel global terrorism.

The dismantling of Al Qaeda's core leadership led to the death of many of its operatives, while others managed to escape and establish new extremist networks in their homelands. The US invasion of Iraq in 2003 provided fertile ground for them to regroup and rally supporters under the guise of resisting occupation.

Syria played a critical role as a training hub for fighters destined to battle US forces in Iraq. The porous borders allowed the free flow of Salafists, Takfiris, and other extremist elements who used the region to prepare for their operations.

The formation of ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) marked a turning point in global terrorism. Emerging from the remnants of Al Qaeda in Iraq, ISIS capitalised on the instability created by US occupation and the power vacuum in post-Saddam Iraq.

The prolonged conflict in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon set the stage for a broader strategic shift in West Asia. After Israel's war on Gaza and its failure to achieve the complete annihilation of Palestine, attention has now shifted to Syria. The objective appears to be the disintegration of the Syrian state, transforming it into a hub for global terrorist networks, thereby providing justification for the continued US military presence in Syria and Iraq.

This serves multiple purposes. It offers a pretext for Israel to occupy Syrian territories near the Golan Heights, an area where significant oil reserves have been discovered. By controlling these resources, Israel could further consolidate its position and strengthen its claim to being a Jewish state, while diminishing hopes for a viable Palestinian state.

Figures like Abu Mohammad Al-Jolani, once a key Al Qaeda leader, former Al Nusra front operative and later an ISIS loyalist, illustrate the complex rebranding of extremist actors in this evolving landscape. Jolani, now leading Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, has been recast as a more "moderate" opposition figure to the Syrian government, with the tacit support of entities like Turkey and the White Helmets.

The prolonged instability in Syria has been exacerbated by the actions of regional players like Turkey, whose policies have significantly influenced the dynamics of the conflict. For over 13 years, Turkey has provided military and logistical support to jihadist groups, sheltering them in the northern regions of Syria, particularly in Idlib province.

The involvement of other actors has added fuel to the fire. Following the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu issued a stark warning to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, accusing him of "playing with fire". This was soon followed by covert coordination between Israeli and Turkish intelligence services, culminating in attacks on key Syrian cities. This underscores a shared interest in weakening Syria's central government.

The systematic erosion of Syrian sovereignty, coupled with the empowerment of jihadist factions, creates a haven for extremist networks. The parallels with historical annexations signal a troubling trend of exploiting conflict.

Syria stands at a critical juncture, fighting a lonely and relentless battle against a mosaic of terrorist factions comprising Uzbek, Uyghur, Turk, and Arab mercenaries. These groups are sustained by nations with vested interests, using Syria as a battleground for their geopolitical agendas.

The fall of the Syrian government to rebel forces will have profound implications for the country's future. It raises questions about whether Syria will emerge as a unified nation or succumb to the "clean and break" policy outlined by US strategists in 1995.

Rooted in reshaping the region's political landscape, it envisions the disintegration of strong states like Syria into smaller, fragmented entities. For Syria, this could mean the division of its territories along ethnic, sectarian, and ideological lines.

Such a scenario would not only undermine Syria's sovereignty but also destabilise West Asia. The fallout would likely include the proliferation of extremist groups, increased regional rivalries, and humanitarian crises on an unprecedented scale.

In contrast, a solution led by Syrians themselves offers the only hope for preserving territorial integrity. This requires inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders—government representatives, opposition groups, ethnic minorities, and civil society organisations. Allowing Syrian people to resolve their issues independently is not just a matter of sovereignty but a necessity for long-term stability. The imposition of foreign solutions often exacerbates divisions and fuels resentment.

The coming years will reveal whether the Syrian government and people can resist the forces of disintegration and reclaim their country from the brink of collapse. Will Syria emerge as a unified state, guided by the will of its people? Or will it be divided, its fate dictated by external powers?

The answer lies in the balance between external intervention and internal resilience. Syria's future will depend on the ability of its people to unite against the odds and reject attempts to fragment their nation. The stakes are high, and the world is watching.

(Views are personal. A longer version of this article is on newindianexpress.com.)

The coming years will reveal whether the Syrian people can resist the forces of disintegration and reclaim the nation. Can they unify despite the pulls of Big Power politics?

ROAD TO DAMASCUS WAS ALWAYS PAVED WITH BITTER IRONY

WAIEL AWWAD
Senior journalist and West Asia strategist

SOURAV ROY

HOW DEVOTION HELPED DISSOLVE KARMA

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

A story is performed each year around Kartikai Ekadasi in the temple town of Thirukkurungudi, over 70 km from Thoothukudi, by dancer Anita Ratnam's Arangham Trust. Kartikai Ekadasi is on December 12 this year. The story is from the *Kaisiki Puranam*, which I would like to retell as salutary.

There once lived a highly evolved devotee called Nambaduvaan who was born a so-called 'outcaste'. He was a staunch devotee of Mahavishnu at Thirukkurungudi. Every night, he would walk several miles to the temple and with utmost devotion stand before the Lord and sing many hymns in his praise. He would quietly leave before dawn. This continued unnoticed for almost 10 years.

One year, he set out as usual with an extra spring in his step to sing to the Lord on the holy occasion of Kartikai Ekadashi. Picking his way to the temple, he was suddenly waylaid by a *brahmarakshasa*. The demon was about to gobble him up when Nambaduvaan pleaded pitifully with it to let him have a last darshan of the Lord. He promised to come back to the *brahmarakshasa* after that. The *rakshasa* refused to believe him. "Who comes back to die?" it scoffed, nor was it so foolish as to let go of a handy dinner.

But Nambaduvaan pleaded earnestly with the *rakshasha* to allow him sing in praise of the Lord one last time in the temple. He promised to come back in the morning for the demon's breakfast. Though the demon continued to laugh scornfully, Nambaduvaan kept pleading.

Finally, he said that 18 terrible sins would accrue to him if he failed to keep his word. He described the sins in great detail and their consequences. The 18th sin was the worst and the one he dreaded the most.

Said Nambaaduvaan, trembling at the thought, "If I equate Lord Vishnu with anyone, I will have committed the gravest sin. I will never get *moksha* and be liberated from the cycle of birth and death."

This bold statement greatly impressed the *rakshasa*. "I think I'll believe you after all," it conceded and let Nambaduvaan go, saying it would wait for him right where it was. The devotee hurried to the temple and sang his heart out to the Lord. He thanked God for letting him sing in his praise for many years. This is a deep tenet of Indian belief across communities and regions—gratitude to God for the connection, saying "Thank you for letting me become aware of You, it nourishes my life."

Come dawn, Nambaduvaan saluted the Lord one last time and set forth to where the *rakshasa* waited. But an old man suddenly appeared in his path and asked him where he was headed to in such a hurry. Nambaduvaan explained the situation, to which the old man suggested he take a different path to evade the *rakshasa*. "But I promised. And I cannot bear to lose God's favour because I have been dishonest," said Nambaduvaan.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Each year, around Kartikai Ekadasi, the story of Nambaduvaan is performed in the temple town of Thirukkurungudi. It depicts how the man's devotion to Mahavishnu saves both his life and also dissolves the karma of a brahmarakshasa

"But you are wholly entitled to save your life," assured the old man, most reasonably. "Not in this case, when I have promised in God's name," said Nambaduvaan. "Life must end someday. I cannot bear to live by dishonouring the name of He whom I have loved with all my heart and soul."

At this point, we are reminded of staunch old Avvaiyaar, who had a vision that saint Sundarar was proceeding to Mount Kailash with his friend King Cheraman. Avvai was then in the middle of worshipping her beloved Ganesha, whom she had adored from babyhood. Sundarar invited Avvai to come with them.

Avvai was sorely tempted for a moment. Who would not ardently desire a chance to go to holy Kailash? But as with Nambaduvaan, her sense of ethics and etiquette proved stronger. A puja or commitment can't be abandoned just because something tempting came along. Avvai was not a shallow, superficial person. She declined the saint's kind invitation. Instead, she completed her puja with utmost fervor, which threw her into a trance.

In that state, she composed a blank verse poem on Ganesha that is still chanted a millennium later. This is the *Vinayaka Agaval* in which she says to Ganesha, "You appeared like a mother to me and severed my illusory earthly bonds." Ganesha was so pleased that he put her on Kailash even before her friends arrived, much to their amazement.

To go back to Nambaduvaan, the old man was none other than Mahavishnu, who was immensely pleased with his sincere devotee and blessed him. Nambaduvaan returned to the *rakshasa* where a miracle awaited him. The demon was shocked by his calm compliance. It fell at Nambaduvaan's feet and begged him to part with the *punya* or merit he had acquired by singing for the Lord. It humbly asked for the *punya* from at least one song.

This request sprang from the deep cultural belief across India that music comprises all nine devotions to God. They are *shravanam* (listening to God's name), *kirtanam* (singing about God), *smaranam* (remembering God always), *pada sevanam* (service to God by serving others), *archana* (puja), *vandanam* (saluting God humbly), *daasyam* (doing tasks for God, in His cause), *sakhyam* (being friends with God) and *atma nivedanam* (surrendering oneself wholly to God).

The *rakshasa* wept that it had been an arrogant priest in its last birth, cursed to become a demon in his next life. Nambaduvaan's big heart was touched. He prayed to Mahavishnu to take pity on this sinner, who regained human form thanks to Nambaduvaan's intercession. And Nambaduvaan's generosity and high moral character are celebrated to this day

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Outrageous GST

Ref: *GST rates outrage: Need for public consultation* (Dec 8). Under the pre-GST regime, though the effective taxation was around 29 percent, many goods and services were not taxed, like hotel food. Hotel food items are already charged whimsically. Under GST, you have to pay more GST. Getting rid of such unfair GST levies is a crying need.
P Mangalachandran, Kannur

Comsumerism mania

Ref: *We need to know what's on the plate* (Dec 8). The reason for the proliferation of such unethical practices being adopted by multinational companies is their eagerness to reach their target because of the size of our population and our lack of awareness about food products. It has also something to do with our consumerism mania. It is consumers who have to be vigilant.
R Sridharan, Chennai

Food safety

Consumption patterns have considerably changed over recent years. Food labels have become the only tool for consumers to acquire additional information about products in order to make the purchase decision. The FSSAI should not allow companies to conceal real grains and ingredients used in the products by enacting stringent laws.
P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Silent enemy

There is a strong call for consumer vigilance and accountability from authorities to enforce stricter food safety standards. Food that is a benefactor to our sustenance becomes a silent enemy if safety is neglected.
Ashrita S, Bengaluru

Modi factor

Ref: *Evolving beyond the Modi factor* (Dec 8). PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's political sagacity and acumen to change BJP's campaign strategy has helped to correct course and return to power. There is no gainsaying the fact that the strength and success of the BJP is still revolving around the Modi factor.
R Pichumani, Kumbakonam

Alternative leaders

There is no dearth of talented ministers in the Modi cabinet, like Nitin Gadkari or Nirmala Sitharaman who can take over the reins in short notice. Just like there was Lal Bahadur Shastri to take over after Jawaharlal Nehru, there is enough talent in the party to take over after Modi. On that note, only time can tell whether there is a viable alternative from the opposition to dethrone the BJP.
Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari
In the coming times, co-operation will play a crucial role in the country's development. Sahakar Bharati is working with the objective of strengthening co-operation which uplifts the society economically...

Sachin Pilot @SachinPilot
Farmers want to convey their views to the govt, but far from listening to them, the central govt is treating them like enemies.

Sanjay Jha @JhaSanjay
The BJP is making a mockery of our country as if it is their private fiefdom. If JDU and TDP pull out, the government will fall. Where does their vulgar arrogance come from?

Strain in Iran-Israel ties a concern, says EAM

Jaishankar says India keen on Red Sea conflict mitigation as trade hit, calls for deeper cooperation in Gulf, Mediterranean

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

EAM Jaishankar being welcomed as he arrives for Manama Dialogue in Bahrain | x

THE strain in Israel-Iran ties is a cause for concern, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said while speaking at the Manama Dialogue in Bahrain on Sunday. "Some of our diplomatic efforts have focused on that particular aspect," he said.

There have been mounting global concerns over escalating tensions between Iran and Israel in the last few months.

In October, Iran fired around 200 missiles into Israel in response to Israel's killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and other commanders of the militant outfit. Israel subsequently retaliated against the Iranian strikes.

Without directly naming the Houthi militants, who attack merchant vessels in the Red Sea impacting global trade activities, Jaishankar highlighted India's interests in mitigating the conflict in the area.

"We have had very significant security challenges in this area, with a very deep and disastrous impact for trade in Asia. So, when we look at the diversion of maritime routes and the insurance costs, and the shipping and container costs and the delay that it has imposed, obviously India have an interest in trying to mitigate that situation," he said.

Jaishankar pointed out that "India is today almost a $4 trillion economy, (and) we expect to comfortably double that this decade. Our trade is around $800 billion, that too should at least double this decade."

India has had a naval presence in this region in the Gulf of Aden, Somalia, and Northern Arabian Sea, he said, "Over the year, it's been roughly about 30 ships, the peak was about 12 ships at one point of time, which were deployed there."

The minister said that last year, India has responded to "24 actual incidents, escorted 250 ships, rescued 120 crew members. So we are making our contributions, we working in tandem with Operation Prosperity Guardian," he said.

Jaishankar also spoke about regional cooperation in the security domain. He said there are certain trend lines coming out of this region. "We have been a supporter of the Abraham Accords and some years ago, we started a grouping called I2U2, which involves India, Israel, the US and the UAE. It is still at a relatively early stage, and we certainly hope that in the coming days that it's a group that will grow," he added.

India has its own operation, but it is also a member of the combined maritime force that is centered in Bahrain.

"This involves CTF150 working with EUNAVFOR. We intend to increase our bilateral exercise with our partners both in the Gulf and the Mediterranean," Jaishankar said.

He said the Gulf countries have been fairly regular partners of India by now and in almost every case, India has seen an uptick in our shared activities. In the Mediterranean, apart from Israel, India has had significant exercises with Greece and Egypt this year.

Red Sea trouble

Without directly naming the Houthi militants, who attack merchant vessels in the Red Sea impacting global trade activities, Jaishankar pointed at India's interests in mitigating conflict in the area. "We have had significant security challenges in this area, with deep and disastrous impact for trade in Asia. So, when we look at the diversion of maritime routes; the insurance, shipping and container costs, and the delay it has imposed, obviously India have an interest in trying to mitigate that situation," he said.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Follow him on X@Shahid_Faridi_

RBI Top Job

BAJAJ, PANDA, GARG FAVOURITES AS DAS TERM ENDS

The term of Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das is set to end on December 10, but there is no indication from the government on whether he will be granted an extension. Sources said that if Das is not given an extension, he will most likely be succeeded by a bureaucrat trusted by the government. The names of several candidates are circulating in Delhi's power corridors as likely successors to Das. These include Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General Anand Mohan Bajaj, a 1990-batch officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service; Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India Debashish Panda, a 1987-batch retired Indian Administrative Service officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre; and Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Saurabh Garg, a 1991-batch IAS officer of the Odisha cadre. Bajaj is a chartered accountant with 30 years of experience in finance, capital markets, and economic affairs. Panda retired as Secretary of the Department of Financial Services in the Union Ministry of Finance. Prior to that, he served as Additional Secretary and Special Secretary in the same department. Garg has an outstanding academic record, having earned a PhD from Johns Hopkins University, an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad, an MA from the London School of Economics, and an undergraduate degree from IIT Delhi. He is also considered one of the key architects of the Union government's highly successful Direct Benefit Transfer scheme. Garg has served in the Union government's Departments of Expenditure and Economic Affairs as well as the World Bank. While the names of these three officers are widely discussed in bureaucratic and financial circles, sources did not entirely rule out the possibility of the government granting an extension to Das.

New BJP President

KHATTAR, DHARMENDRA PULL AHEAD; FADNAVIS OUT

The race for the new BJP president is narrowing with each passing month. Devendra Fadnavis, a strong contender for the post, has taken over as the chief minister of a coalition government. Sources indicate that the party leadership would not like to pull him out of Maharashtra as he is the best man to manage the pulls and pressures of the coalition and ensure its longevity. Vinod Tawde, another frontrunner known for his organisational skills and favored by the party leadership, became embroiled in a controversy following allegations that he was carrying cash intended for use in the election. A video showing Tawde sitting in a hotel while workers of opposition candidates showing currency notes allegedly recovered from his bag has revived troubling memories of the late BJP president Bangaru Laxman accepting cash from a purported arms dealer. Insiders reveal that the party is keen to avoid providing the opposition with ammunition to launch an attack. Sunil Bansal, the third favourite for the post, has also been facing headwinds from his parent organisation, the RSS, which reportedly favors Union ministers Shivraj Singh Chauhan and Rajnath Singh. However, sources indicate that the Prime Minister is keen to retain both leaders in the ministry. The BJP's organisational elections are underway, with the process of electing Mandal-level executives and presidents currently in progress. Once this phase is completed, elections for the Zila-level executives are expected to begin in the second half of this month. This will be followed by state executive elections in the first half of January and the election of the national president later that month. According to sources, in the emerging scenario, Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Manohar Lal Khattar are seen as frontrunners for the BJP's top leadership role.

800 sewage treatment plants enrolled for rating under Jal Amrit Scheme

PARVEZ SULTAN @New Delhi

WITHIN a few weeks of its launch, more than 800 Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) from different states and UTs have been enrolled for assessment under Centre's ambitious 'Jal Hi Amrit' scheme. The programme launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is an incentive scheme to encourage states and UT authorities to ensure good quality of recycled water being treated at plants.

So far, around 2,500 participants have been trained through on-site and online training programmes. The ministry also held two training sessions for assessors and samplers.

Under the initiative, participating STPs will be evaluated based on the desktop assessment, field verification, and water quality testing. After the evaluation, a star-rating certificate with six months validity according to the final assessment will be issued.

The Centre introduced this incentive scheme to encourage authorities to ensure good quality of recycled water being treated at plants. The proposed scheme — Clean Water Credit System — generate competitiveness among authorities for meeting environmental standards and for managing the used water (sewage) treatment plants efficiently. The incentive amounting to ₹25 lakh-eight crore — is released based on ratings and the recycling capacity of the plant.

A 70:30 incentive release structure has been formulated for this programme; 70% of the incentive is released upfront to the STPs if they meet the required conditions and remaining 30% are given upon when they maintain their star rating for another six months. The 4-star and 3-star STPs become eligible for balance incentive earmarked for higher rating following their upgradation to five or four-star rating by next year, said officials.

The STPs utilise the incentive for improvement of operating efficiencies, technology upgradation, capital expenditures for reuse infrastructure, setting up of real time data management systems and capacity building of staff.

Minister Tokhan Sahu recently informed Parliament that for desktop assessment, field verification and capacity building of urban local bodies, specialised agencies have been onboarded.

Incentive structure

A 70:30 incentive release structure has been formulated for this programme; 70% of the incentive is released upfront to the STPs if they meet the required conditions and remaining 30% are given if they maintain their star rating for six more months.

BNP for India goods boycott; anti-Bangla rallies in Bengal

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

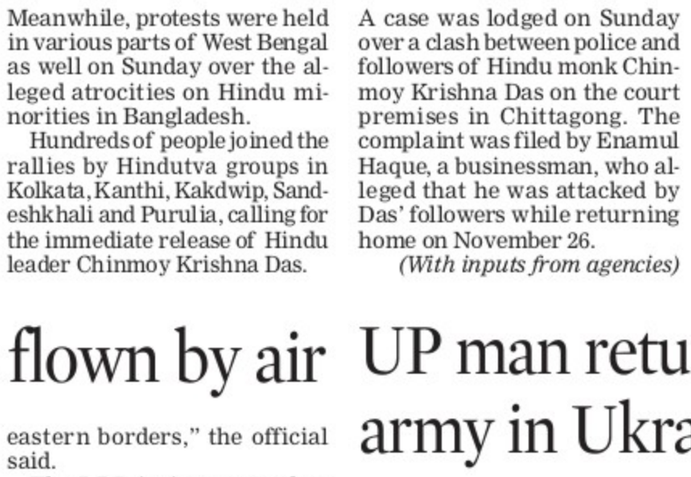
A day ahead of foreign secretary Vikram Misri's official visit to Dhaka, six members of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Sunday submitted a memorandum to the Indian High Commission there, raising concerns against anti-Bangladesh incidents in its neighbourhood.

Misri will visit Dhaka on Monday to hold foreign office consultations with his counterpart. On Sunday, Bangladesh's foreign affairs adviser Md Touhid Hossain stressed again the need for improving relations with India.

The memorandum, submitted by members of the former prime minister Khalida Zia-led party, included incidents around Bangladesh's mission in Agartala and allegations of desecration of the country's flag.

The delegation had Central Jubo Dal president Monayem Munna, general secretary Nurul Islam Nayan, Swechchasebak Dal chief SM Jilani, its general secretary Rajib Ahsan, Chhatra Dal president Rakibul Islam Rakib, and its general secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir.

BNP's senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi condemned the Indian government and media for attempting to disrupt religious harmony in Bangladesh through false and misleading campaigns. Rizvi said they suspected India of facilitating the return of Sheikh Hasina to Bangladesh.



Bangladesh Nationalist Party supporters shout slogans during an anti-India protest outside the Indian High Commission in Dhaka on Sunday | PTI

The BNP members have also been urging Bangladeshi nationals to boycott Indian products. "The BNP has been urging people in Bangladesh to abstain from using Indian products. Recently, a BNP leader burnt saris from India that women in his family was using," Professor Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah told this paper.

Protests in Kolkata

Meanwhile, protests were held in various parts of West Bengal as well on Sunday over the alleged atrocities on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh.

Hundreds of people joined the rallies by Hindutva groups in Kolkata, Kanthi, Kakdwip, Sandeshkhali and Purulia, calling for the immediate release of Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das.

At the demonstration outside the Salt Lake International Bus Terminus near Kolkata, protesters torched Dhakai Jamdani sarees from Bangladesh.

They called for a boycott of Bangladeshi goods, warning that Indians wouldn't remain silent if the disrespect toward the tricolour and attacks on Hindus continued.

Case on Chinmoy Das

A case was lodged on Sunday over a clash between police and followers of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das on the court premises in Chittagong. The complaint was filed by Enamul Haque, a businessman, who alleged that he was attacked by Das' followers while returning home on November 26.

(With inputs from agencies)

Tough task for sleuths as black cocaine flown by air

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE air route has become a dominant way of smuggling drugs, as the most expensive drug black cocaine is brought to the country through international passenger and cargo flights, officials said on Sunday.

A report prepared by the Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) revealed that the recent seizures indicated an increasing trend of cocaine smuggling via air passenger routes, they said.

The data showed that there was a 100 per cent increase over 12 months, as the cases increased from 21 in 2022-23 to 47 in 2023-24, with the majority of them taking place at international airports across the country, they said.

It is also learnt from the officials that cocaine is the only drug showing the upward trend in its smuggling into India.

A senior Official said, "In the recent years, India has witnessed a marked increase in the availability and use of various narcotic substances. In 2023-24, DRI registered 109 cases involving 8,223.61 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 107.31 kg of cocaine, 48.74 kg of heroin, 136 kg of methamphetamine, 236 kg of mephedrone, and 7,348.68 kg of 'ganja'."

CAMOUFLAGED DRUG

Agencies struggle to detect a new variety of black cocaine as traffickers mask it with charcoal or iron oxide

No of black cocaine smuggling cases rose from **21** in 2022-23 to **47** in 2023-24

Over **109** cases registered and over **8,223.61 KG** of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances seized during 2023-24

Cocaine	107.31 KG
Heroin	48.74 KG
Methamphetamine	136 KG
Mephedrone	236 KG
Ganja	7,348.68 KG
Others	346.88 KG

The increase in cocaine smuggling is largely attributed to trafficking from South America through African and Middle Eastern routes, the officials said, adding that there has been a notable rise in drug trafficking via 'couriers and parcels'.

"The smuggling of cocaine and heroin through air cargo and human carriers, primarily from Africa and the Middle East, is increasing. Most heroin seizures made by DRI in the past year involved trafficking via air routes from African countries and land routes through India's porous northeastern borders," the official said.

The DRI, in its report, has also analysed the reasons for increasing use of air routes by smugglers, and it concluded that this was because of the speed and growing volume of international air traffic, the officials said.

The role of DRI is more critical than ever as India faces mounting challenges with sophisticated smuggling methods, shifting global trade patterns, the misuse of emerging technologies, and the expanding network of transnational crime syndicates.

A new variety of cocaine, called 'black cocaine', is posing a challenge for all anti-drugs agencies, as it is difficult to detect using standard drug detection methods and thus can be smuggled through agents in the US and Europe.

"By chemically masking the cocaine with substances like charcoal or iron oxide, traffickers create a black powder undetectable by standard drug-sniffing methods. This variant is disguised as industrial products like printer toner or metal ores and requires a complex extraction process to revert to pure cocaine," another official said.

> **By chemically masking the cocaine with substances like charcoal or iron oxide, traffickers create a black powder undetectable by standard drug-sniffing methods. This variant is disguised as industrial products such as printer toner or metal ores** — Dept of Revenue Intelligence official

UP man returns after serving Russian army in Ukraine war, says 25 still stuck

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

AFTER serving in the Russian army for eight months in the war with Ukraine, Rakesh Yadav from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh retuned to India and claimed that more than 25 youths from India are still stuck in the conflict zone.

Yadav on Sunday reached Sultanpur Lodhi near Kapurthala in Punjab to express his gratitude to AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal for saving him.

"In the war one of my companions was killed in a drone attack by Ukraine. My life was saved because I jumped into the bunker built there as soon as I saw the drone," Yadav said.

Referring to another incident, he said that on June 17 one of his colleagues died in a grenade explosion there but the death news was shared with his family by the Russian authorities only after six months.

Describing his ordeal, Yadav said that he and five other companions were called there by a travel agent eight months ago for home guard jobs in Russia. "But as soon as we reached there (Russia), we were forcibly recruited in the Russian army and were made to sign a document in Russian. I was beaten up there on repeated refusals. After fifteen days of weapon training, I was thrown into the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine," he said.

Rakesh Yadav (third from right) said he and five other companions were called to Russia by a travel agent eight months ago for home guard jobs | EXPRESS

Yadav said the agents forcefully withdrew about ₹45 lakh from his account, which he received as wage in the army and compensation given by the government as he was injured.

Families of Yadav and his five companions from Punjab, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh had handed over a letter to Seechewal and appealed for help for the return of their children from the war zone.

Jagdeep Singh, brother of Mandeep Singh trapped in the Russian army, said he has not spoken to his brother since March 3. Family members of Kanhaiya Kumar and Deepak, who came from UP, said they were injured in the battlefield in a grenade explosion. "But we have not spoken to them after June," they said.

Thanking Foreign Minister Jaishankar, Seechewal said he will try to raise the issue in the current session of Parliament. He appealed to the MEA to bring back the trapped youths and take action against the agents.

CHAR DHAM YATRA

Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday inaugurated the Winter Char Dham Yatra by offering prayers at the Omkareshwar Temple in Ukhimath, the winter seat of Lord Kedarnath in Rudraprayag district.

7 PEOPLE HOSPITALISED AS FIRE GUTS STUDIO IN PUNE

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	26	12	Mumbai	32	15
Bhopal	24	07	Panaji	28	24
Jaipur	22	06	Patna	25	12
Amritsar	20	04	Lucknow	23	10
Chennai	31	25	Port Blair	31	27
Kolkata	25	17	Imphal	23	09
Srinagar	09	-05	Chandigarh	19	05

J'khand villagers hunt for Maoists

Killing of three youths triggered the campaign against PLFI members in Chaibasa area

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

MORE than 15,000 people of nearly 100 villages in Jharkhand's Chaibasa have taken to the streets with bows, arrows, swords and other traditional weapons, launching a campaign against the Maoists active in the area.

According to sources, the villagers of Gudri and Goilkera area have launched 'operation Sendra' (a traditional hunting festival celebrated by tribal communities) during which Maoist outfit PLFI leader Meta Tiger and his aide Gomia are said to have been killed after receiving injuries from the arrows.

The villagers are on a hunt for one more rebel who is still at large. The villagers were mobilised after the Maoists killed the three villagers last month.

"After killing of the three youths, no concrete action was taken by police against the Maoists due to which the villagers got angry and they decided to take up arms and target the extremists," a village leader said, wishing not to be named.

Meanwhile, there is an atmosphere of undeclared curfew in the villages where the campaign has been launched. Entry of outsiders has been banned in the villages within 40 km of radius of Gudri. "Carrying mobile phones is prohibited in these villages and those involved in the movement are also not allowed to carry a mobile phone. The teachers, however, have been allowed to go to their schools but they cannot use mobile phones," a local resident said.

A massive search operation has been launched in the region but neither the villagers were sighted nor the body of the deceased has been found. We have information about the killing of a PLFI rebel by the villagers but no dead body has been recovered from the area

Ashutosh Shekhar, Chaibasa SP

According to the dictat issued in these villages, it is mandatory for every household to send at least two members to join the campaign. The families who will not join will be fined by the gram panchayat and may have to face social boycott. Police, however, are yet to confirm the killings of Maoists as they have not fond the bodies. "A massive search operation has been launched in the region but neither the villagers were sighted nor the body of the deceased has been found," said Chaibasa SP Ashutosh Shekhar. "We have information about the killing of a PLFI rebel by the villagers but no dead body has been recovered from the area," he said.

DGP Anurag Gupta, who was on a visit to Chaibasa on Sunday, said this is not the first time that people have been opposing the Maoists. "I think such incidents will increase... If Maoists create problems for the villagers, they themselves will drag them out of their villages," the DGP said.

Gudri has sand ghats on the Koel river where PLFI cadre used to collect levy from tractors lifting sand.

Maoists kill another woman in Bijapur dist

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

AFTER an Anganwadi assistant was killed at Basaguda in an edgy Bijapur, the Maoists strangled another woman to death in the same district, police said on Sunday.

The Maoists abducted Sukra (40) along with her husband Ramaiyya Yalam on Saturday evening, accusing the woman of being an informer for Telangana police. She was strangled with a rope and the body dumped 3 km away from her Laded village. "Her husband was brutally beaten and asked to leave. The Maoists later killed Sukra whose body was recovered by the police on Sunday", said a police officer.

On Saturday, Anganwadi worker Lakshmi Padam (45), a widow, was killed in Timmapur village of Bijapur by unidentified Maoists who issued a pamphlet claiming the responsibility of killing her on suspicion of being a police informer.

The police suspect the role of a small action team of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) in the killing of two women.

Modi to attend Rising Rajasthan Summit today

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024 will take place in Jaipur from December 9 to 11, with the Rajasthan government aiming to attract investments and propel the state's economic growth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the summit, with key industrialists attending the opening session.

Central ministers, VVIPs, and over 30 leading industrialists will participate. Gautam Adani and Anand Mahendra will also hold discussions with Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on investment opportunities.

The summit has already secured investment proposals worth approximately ₹25 lakh crore.

Over 4,000 police personnel, including 11 IPS officers, have been deployed to ensure law and order during the summit. International participation is also noteworthy, with countries like Switzerland, Malaysia, Spain, Brazil, and Venezuela confirming their attendance. Thirteen ambassadors posted in India will be among the 185 state guests and each guest will be assigned a protocol officer.

The summit will feature 12 sessions on topics such tourism sector, titled "Embracing Diversity: Promoting Inclusive Tourism." These sessions aim to highlight Rajasthan's investment potential across sectors such as MSMEs, exports, energy, minerals, and tourism.

Bhajanlal Sharma has launched nine new policies to attract investors. These include initiatives for MSMEs, exports, tourism, energy, and minerals, designed to double the state's economy. The summit comes less than a year into Sharma's tenure, reflecting his government's proactive approach toward economic development.

However, challenges lie ahead as similar events in the past — Investment Rajasthan during the Ashok Gehlot government and Resurgent Rajasthan under Vasundhara Raje — yielded limited success in implementing signed MOUs. Ensuring the execution of the proposed investments remains a crucial test for the Sharma-government.

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR
Our correspondent in Guwahati
prasantamazumdar@newindianexpress.com

International recognition for Guwahati airport

The Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA) in Guwahati has achieved level 2 of the Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Customer Experience accreditation. The LGBIA said this recognition underscores the airport's unwavering commitment to enhancing passenger experience. "This recognition is the outcome of teams and stakeholders coming together. LGBIA is committed to continuous improvement. With the implementation of digital and technological interventions, we ensure for a seamless travel through the airport," the statement said.

Film fest draws large crowds in Guwahati

The 9th edition of the Brahmaputra Valley Film Festival (BVFF) held in Guwahati from December 5-8 drew cinephiles and filmmakers from the Indian film industry. The festival featured 30 films, 20 in the competitive section and 10 in the non-competitive. This eclectic mix included 13 feature films, five documentaries and 12 short films, showcasing an array of narratives that reflect the rich storytelling tradition of Indian cinema. Festival director Tanushree Hazarika said, "BVFF has always been a platform to bring compelling stories to the forefront."

High air pollution levels in Guwahati, says study

A study by International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology revealed that air pollution in Guwahati needs urgent action. The study was carried out as part of the social media campaign "Smog Tales: Know your city and what you breathe." It brought to the fore severe air pollution in the city, with serious health implications. According to the survey, the average PM2.5 levels in 2023 were 53% above the permissible limit while PM10 levels were on average, double the safe threshold. Winter months recorded a 78% increase in PM2.5 concentrations, with December seeing the highest pollution levels, the study revealed.

Pressure on Manipur govt to restore net

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

AS mobile internet services remain suspended in nine of Manipur's 16 districts, pressure is now mounting on the state government to lift the ban.

An Imphal valley-based organisation, Federation of Civil Societies Manipur, on Sunday urged the government to restore the services, highlighting how life without internet has impacted economic and social sectors. It has affected local entrepreneurs, professionals, businesses, students and healthcare services, it added.

It said the students were at the receiving end due to frequent suspension of internet services besides curfews and general strikes.

"Students rely heavily on internet to access resources. Secondly, placement agencies are not willing to visit the campuses due to curfews and strikes," the organisation said.

Internet services – mobile and broadband – were suspended on November 16 in the nine districts of Imphal East, Imphal West, Kakching, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Pherzawl, and Jiribam for maintaining law and order in the state.

INDIA bloc will hold talks to take call on Mamata as leader, says Tejashwi

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE main opposition in Bihar-Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)—on Sunday appeared non-committal on West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee's willingness to lead the 'INDIA' bloc.

RJD leader and former Bihar deputy chief minister **Tejashwi Prasad Yadav** said that the matter is yet to be discussed. "I don't think there will be any objection on the names of senior leaders running the alliance," he added.

RJD spokesperson Mritunjay Tiwari termed Banerjee a strong faction of the alliance who has been fighting against BJP and communal forces. He said that all top leaders of the alliance would meet and decide on it. Tiwari, however, highlighted the role of RJD chief and former Bihar CM Lalu Prasad in uniting the non-BJP parties across the country.

Political analyst and founder of Jan Suraaj Party, Prashant Kishor, said, "Mamata Banerjee is a senior leader, and the coalition better knows who will lead them. It is the coalition's internal matter. So far, the INDIA bloc has not been led by a person or party...Congress is leading the alliance by default since it is the largest party..".

On the other hand, senior JD(U) leader K C Tyagi said that the regional leaders are unhappy with Rahul Gandhi's leadership. There is also a dispute regarding leadership in 'INDIA' bloc.

While responding to a question on the latest friction in the 'INDIA' bloc over Banerjee's statement, he said, "That's why JD(U) and Nitish Kumar came out of the alliance. We knew about its future that it can't work together."

'Accept defeat': Fadnavis counters Pawar's remark on election results

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday sharply responded to NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar's comments on BJP-led MahaYuti's victory in assembly elections, saying the opposition must "accept defeat" and introspect.

Pawar said his party got more votes than NCP (Ajit Pawar) but won only 10 seats while the party led by his nephew bagged 41.

In reply Fadnavis said, "It is wrong to compare the seats won on the basis of votes polled." He countered Sharad Pawar citing recent Lok Sabha election data.

Pawar said, "NCP (SP) got 72 lakh votes but only 10 of its candidates got elected, while Ajit-led NCP got 58 lakh votes but won 41 seats. Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena got 80 lakh votes but won 20 seats while Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena got 79 lakh votes but managed to win 57 seats."

He added, "If you calculate the received votes and won seats, then it's very confusing and surprising. We are collecting the data and analysing it. Unless we get some concrete analysis and go to the fathom of the data, we will not comment over it."

WHO GOT WHAT

	TOTAL VOTES	SEATS
BJP	1,72,93650	132
Shiv Sena	79,96930	57
NCP	58,16,566	41

	TOTAL VOTES	SEATS
Congress	8,020,921	16
NCP (SP)	72,87,797	10
Shiv Sena (UBT)	64,33,013	20

Fadnavis said Sharad Pawar is the senior-most leader, still he is misleading people.

"In 2024 Lok Sabha elections, BJP got 1,49,13,914 votes and won nine seats while Congress got 96,41,856 votes and got 13 seats. Shiv Sena got 73,77,674 votes and won seven seats while NCP SP got 58,51,166 votes and won eight seats. Then how it happened in Lok Sabha elections?" Fadnavis asked. He added the in 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Congress got 87,92,237 votes and won only one seat while united NCP got 83,87,363 votes and still won four seats.

"Opposition should accept the defeat and come out soon from this by accepting the reality. You should ask your colleagues to introspect, not to misguide," the Maharashtra CM said.

Green cess in U'khand on outside pvt vehicles

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

IN a proactive step towards environmental conservation, the Uttarakhand government is gearing up to impose a green cess on private vehicles entering the state from other regions. Sources at the state transport department stated that as per the proposed rates, three-wheelers will attract a fee of ₹20, four-wheelers ₹40, and medium and heavy vehicles ₹60 and ₹80, respectively.

Notably, two-wheelers, electric vehicles, CNG vehicles, ambulances, and other essential service vehicles will be exempt from this charge. The implementation of this initiative is expected by the end of the month or in January of next year, aligning with the transport department's ongoing efforts to enhance road safety and environmental sustainability.

Another source at the transport department revealed, "The green cess collected from out-of-state commercial vehicles is directed towards improving road infrastructure and reducing vehicular emissions."

Currently, only commercial vehicles from other states are subjected to a green cess, which is utilised for road safety initiatives and pollution control measures.

Reflecting on the development, Joint Commissioner of Transport S.K. Singh said, "The transport department is preparing to extend this levy to private vehicles. Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras installed at the state borders will be used to identify vehicles entering from other states based on their registration numbers."

The green cess will be collected daily, similar to toll taxes. A pass system is also being proposed for regular commuters, with the transport department seeking collaboration from private companies to facilitate this initiative. The tender process for this collaboration is currently underway.

Singh added, "The tender process is ongoing, and a decision will be made soon."

Anoop Nautiyal, founder of the Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation, reacted to the new green cess, stating, "Hundred per cent of the tax collected under this scheme should be spent on environmental conservation in Uttarakhand, so that the purpose of implementing the green cess policy can be meaningful."

Though the green cess will be applicable to vehicles entering the region for single-day visits, the vehicle owners have the option to purchase extended validity passes if they anticipate needing access for a longer duration.

These extended passes are available at a premium rate: for a quarterly pass, the cost will be 20 times the daily rate, while an annual pass will be priced at 60 times the daily rate, according to an official from the transport department.

Extended validity passes

Though the green cess will be applicable to vehicles entering the region for single-day visits, the vehicle owners have the option to purchase extended validity passes if they anticipate needing access for a longer duration. These are available at a premium rate: for a quarterly pass, the cost will be 20 times the daily rate, while an annual pass will be priced at 60 times the daily rate, according to an official from the transport department.

Amid royal dispute, Udaipur's temple introduces dress code for women

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

UDAIPUR'S iconic Eklingji temple has introduced a new dress code, prohibiting visitors from wearing short clothing such as mini-skirts, bermudas, and night suits.

In addition to the dress code, which came into effect on Friday, the temple has banned mobile phones within its premises. Visitors are now required to deposit their phones at designated counters before entering. The temple management stated that these measures were introduced to address complaints from devotees, who sought a more respectful and serene atmosphere for worship.

The committee prohibited the entry of pets and weapons, reinforcing their commitment to maintaining the sanctity and safety of the temple.

Revered for its spiritual significance, the temple attracts thousands of devotees and tourists from across the country. These new rules aim to preserve its spiritual ambiance and ensure an atmosphere conducive to worship. However, the temple recently found itself in the spotlight not just for its new regulations but also due to a royal family dispute that has drawn public attention.

The temple became a focal point of controversy when Vishvaraj Singh Mewar, heir of the former royal family of Mewar, and his uncle, Arvind Singh Mewar, a BJP MLA from Nathdwara, clashed over the succession of royal property.

The dispute began after the passing of Mahendra Singh Mewar, Vishvaraj Singh's father. Following Mahendra Singh's death, Vishvaraj Singh was crowned as the Diwan of Mewar, a title traditionally bestowed as a representative of Lord Ekling Nath, considered the reigning deity of Mewar.

Arvind Singh Mewar, however, contested this succession, asserting that he is the rightful heir to the royal family's assets. According to family tradition, the management of the Mewar royal trust had been handed over to Arvind Singh's father, who also managed the royal seat of Udaipur.

Bans phone, entry of pets

The temple has banned mobile phones within its premises. Visitors are now required to deposit their phones at designated counters before entering. The management stated that these measures were introduced to address complaints from devotees. The committee prohibited the entry of pets and weapons, reinforcing their commitment to maintaining the sanctity and safety of the temple.

SYRIANS CELEBRATE FALL OF ASSAD FAMILY RULE

DAMASCUS

SYRIA's president Bashar al-Assad has fled Syria as Islamist-led rebels swept into Damascus on Sunday, triggering celebrations across the country and beyond at the end of his oppressive rule.

Russian news agencies late Sunday said Assad and his family were in Moscow.

Crowds ransacked Assad's luxurious home after the rebels earlier Sunday declared he had fled, in a spectacular end to five decades of brutal Baath party rule. The foreign ministry of Russia announced earlier on Sunday that Assad resigned from the presidency and left the country without saying where.

Residents in the capital were seen cheering in the streets as the rebel factions heralded the departure of "tyrant" Assad, saying: "We declare the city of Damascus free Celebrations erupted around Syria and crowds ransacked President Bashar al-Assad's luxurious home on Sunday after Islamist-led rebels swept into Damascus and declared he fled the country, in a spectacular end to five decades of Baath party rule.

Residents in the capital were seen cheering in the streets as the rebel factions heralded the departure of "tyrant" Assad, saying: "We declare the city of Damascus free."

Dozens of men, women and children were wandering through Assad's luxurious home after it had been looted.

The rooms of the residence had been left completely empty, save some furniture and a portrait of Assad discarded on the floor, while an entrance hall at the presidential palace not far away had been torched.

"I can't believe I'm living this moment," tearful Damascus resident Amer Batha said.

"We've been waiting a long time for this day," he said, adding: "We are starting a new history for Syria."

Assad's reported departure comes less than two weeks after the Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) group challenged more than five decades of Assad family rule with a lightning offensive. "After 50 years of oppression under Baath rule, and 13 years of crimes and tyranny and (forced) displacement... we announce today the end of this dark period and the start of a new era for Syria," the rebel factions said on Telegram. *AFP*

Israel seizes buffer zone along Syrian border: Bibi

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he ordered the Israeli military to "seize" a demilitarised buffer zone on the border with Syria after the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad in Damascus. The Israeli premier said a 50-year-old "disengagement agreement" between the two countries had collapsed and "Syrian forces have abandoned their positions".

As a result, he said, "I directed the IDF (military) yesterday to seize the buffer zone and the commanding positions nearby. We will not allow any hostile force to establish itself on our border." The announcement, which Netanyahu made while visiting the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights which abut the buffer zone, came after the military said it had deployed forces to the area. Israel had already said the day before, as the Islamist-led rebels swiftly advanced across Syria, that its soldiers entered the UN-patrolled buffer zone to assist peacekeepers in repelling an attack. On Sunday, the army announced a troop deployment there, citing "the possible entry of armed individuals into the buffer zone".

"Following the recent events in Syria... the IDF (military) has deployed forces in the buffer zone and in several other places necessary for its defence, to ensure the safety of the communities of the Golan Heights and the citizens of Israel," a statement said.

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DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
1	**Mr. Raj Priyankar Panda (Borrower)** **HP Computing and Printing Systems India** **Designation:** Technical Solution R **Department:** IT. **Employee No.:** 21657781 No 66/2M Ward No 83, Embassy Prime, Bagmane Tech Park, C.V.Raman Nagar S.O, Bengaluru 560093 **Also at: Hewlett Packard Global E Business Private Limited, Designation:** Team Leader **Department:** CSC, Consumer Contact Centre, Global E-Business Operations, # 91 Ring Road, Electronic City, Bengaluru 560100 **Mr. Raj Priyankar Panda (Borrower)** **Mrs. Sanghamitra Panda (Co-Borrower)** **Both are residing at:** Flat-409-Block-A, 3rd Floor, Crystal Apartments, S No.15/12, Block E Khatha No.587/15/12, Halehalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bengaluru 560036.	**Loan A/c Nos:** 1) 651413715 **Rs.30,48,202/-** 2) 653810369 **Rs.36,073/-** 3) 677597433 **Rs.12,36,256/-** 4) 677860020 **Rs. 94,338/-** **Total Amount: Rs.44,14,869/-** [Rupees Forty Four Lakhs Fourteen Thousand & Eight Hundred and Sixty Nine Only] as on 31.10.2024	23.11.2024 ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e)** 03.09.2024	**Schedule -A:** All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Converted **Sy No.15/12,** E Khatha No.587/15/12, (150200400501120004), (Converted vide Conversion Order Bearing No.ALN (EBB)/SR.257/2013-14, dated 09-05-2014, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore) situated at Halehalli Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring 0-11 Guntas (11979 Square feet) out of 0-16.12 Guntas and bounded on the. **East by :** Land bearing Sy No. 15/3, **West by :** Road and thereafter Land Bearing Sy No.15/7, **North by :** Remaining Land in Sy No.15/12, **South by :** Land bearing Sy No.12. **Schedule B: 333 Square Feet** of Undivided shares right, title and interest in Composite Schedule A Property. **Schedule C:** Apartment bearing **Flat No.409,** E Khatha No. 150200400501120647. **Block A: Third Floor, Measuring 1140 Square Feet of super build up area** containing 2 Bedrooms, together with **one car parking** and proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, Vitrified tile Flooring, lifts and staircase, together with all the amenities mentioned in the Construction Agreement and contained in the Apartment building to be constructed on the composite schedule property known as **"CRYSTAL APARTMENT"** flat bounded on: **East by :** Passage and flat No. 408, **West by :** Passage and flat No. 401, **North by :** Open to sky, **South by :** Open to sky.
2	**Mr. Pujari Srinivas S (Borrower)** **Jay Jay Consultants,** **Designation:** Asst General Manager, **Department:** Engg, **Employee No:** JJ105 No 8, 2nd Floor, 1st Main, RPC Layout, Vijay Nagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560040. **Also at:** No 1745, 6th Main, 8th Cross, RPC Layout, Vijaynagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560104 **Also at:** No 12/A, Banashankary Layout, Sangameshwara Colony, Bramhapur, Gulbarga 585103 **Also at:** Flat-07074, 7th Floor, Habitat Iluminar Apartment, S No 49/1, 49/2A & 49/2B, Mylasandra Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru 560060.	**Loan A/c Nos.** 1) 626503069 **Rs.45,50,499/-** 2) 627780899 **Rs. 2,29,050/-** **Total Amount : Rs.47,79,549/-** (Rupees Forty Seven Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Nine Only) as on 31.10.2024	27.11.2024 ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e)** 04.04.2024	**Schedule- A:** All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Survey Nos. 49/1, 49/2A and 49/2B totally measuring 5 Acre 08 Guntas out of which 11 Guntas has gone for road and 02 Guntas lost for realignment of Path Road now Vendors is actual possession of the land measuring 4 Acre 35 Guntas situated at Mylasandra Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on the: **East by** : Private Layout, **West by** : Road, **North by** : Road, **South by** : Vijayashree Layout: **Schedule- B: 48.95 Square Meters** (527 Sq. Ft) Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the Schedule 'A' Property. **Schedule- C:** Residential Apartment **No.07074 on the Seventh Floor of Tower - 07** of the residential apartment complex known as **"HABITAT ILUMINAR"** constructed upon Schedule 'A' Property having 78.13 Square Mtrs (841 Square Feet) of RERA carpet area or 112.78 Square Mtrs **(1214 Square Feet)** of Super built up Area including **6.22 Square Mtrs** (67 Square Feet) of balcony area consisting of 03 bed rooms, hall, kitchen, and toilets and proportionate interest in the common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts staircases and other common facilities, apartment plan annexed herewith, bounded on: **East by :** Open to Sky, **West by :** Apartment No.07073, **North by :** Apartment No.06071, **South by :** Staircase & Lift Lobby. Along with the exclusive license to use Single Car park slot in the Ground Level (Car Parking No.G-87).

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 09.12.2024
Place: Bengaluru

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr. SUNIL D & Mr. M U S HEMAN,** Bangalore, intends to purchase with **Mr. K KRISHNA DAS , Mr. K VIJAYA PRAKASH and Mr. K MOHAN KUMAR** , who are the legal heirs to the property owners **Mr. LATE S KRISHNAN NAYAR and Mrs. Late VIJAYALAKSHMI.** Residing at No. 15/9 , 5th Main Road , Sree Kanteshwara Nagar , Bangalore-560 096, in respect of Immoveable Residential Property bearing Municipal No.15/9, PID No.10-46-15/9 and Municipal No.15/10, PID No.10-46-15/10, situated at Marappanapalya Ward No.44, Sy. No.97, of Jarakabandekaval, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk., Bangalore, measuring East to West 60-00 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring 2400 square feet, and bounded on East by Site No.15/11, West by: Road , North by: Site No. 19/8, South by: 5th Main Road. If anybody or any local government or central or state government or local Panchayath, or revenue department any Society, Trust or any temples, or Banks or Financiers or Companies or any of the person/s have got right, power, minor claims, co-parsenary rights, ancestral rights, joint family property rights, or any objections or any types of claims may file their objections and claims along with relevant documents and documentary proofs to the undersigned ***within Fifteen (15) days*** from the date of publication of this notice.

SUNIL D: Eshwar krupa, # 1278, 9th Main, 6th cross, Srinivasa Nagar, Bangalore- 560050. Ph- 9845488805

M U S HEMAN: Kanakakrishna Nivasa, #15, 4th Main, 1st Cross, Shankar Nagar, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore-5600964. Ph- 807300652

A.M. Gajendra & Associates
2, 3rd Cross, 3rd Main, Kathriguppe Main Rd, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Banashankari, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560085
Ph. 98455 62465

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General Public that, my client**Mr. Naganand R Hegde,** S/o:Sri. RamachandraHegde, Aged about 37 years, Residing at No.206, Nandagokul Apartment, Bere Bail BejaiAashreya Layout, Mangalore-575 004, now at Bangalore, has lost thefollowing Original Sale deeds:-

1) **Original Registered Sale deed dated: 12-07-2019 Registered as Document No.RRN-1-03068/2019-2020 stored in CD No.RRND352 of Book-I in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore, in respect of the** property bearing Corner site No.40, Khata No.150200300700826399 formed in the layout known as 'RAJARAJESHWARI RESIDENCY 2nd PHASE' in the converted land bearing Sy.No.147 of Chunchanakuppe Village, Thavarakere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring **East to West 39.44 Feet and North to South 26.24 feet in all measuring 1035 Sq.feet** and bounded on the East by Site No.39, West by Road, North by Site No.41, and South by Road.

1) **Original Registered Sale deed dated:12-07-2019 Registered as Document No.RRN-1-03070/2019-2020 stored in CD No.RRND352 of Book-I in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore, in respect of the** property bearing site No.54, Khata No.150200300700826427 formed in the layout known as 'RAJARAJESHWARI RESIDENCY 2nd PHASE' in the converted land bearing Sy.No.147 of Chunchanakuppe Village, ThavarakereHobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring **East to West 39.52 Feet and North to South 19.86 feet, in all measuring 784 Sq.feet** and bounded on the East by Road, West by Site No.55, North by Site No.53 and South by Private Property.

It was lost on 14-11-2024. He has lodged a Police complaint on **19-11-2024** with Crime Branch, Bengaluru City Police, in that behalf and filed an Affidavit on **19-11-2024 also.** The General Public are hereby informed that if any person holding/trace out the above said Original document, may inform to the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of this notice.

If any person/s or any bank or any financial institution having any charge, lien, right, title or interest over the above said property should inform to the undersigned with the relevant documentary evidence in person within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice failing which the title of the above said property will be presumed to be clear and marketable and my client will go further in respect of the said property.

Bangalore.
Date:19-11-2024.

Sd/- **[Gopalkrishna. R. Hegde]**
Advocate. No.231,S.C.Road, Bengaluru-560009.

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING
INDULGE
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LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bangalore -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SEC 13 (2) OF "THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIALASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

The following persons whose names are mentioned in Col No.2, The details of properties mortgaged are shown in Col No.5. The borrower has defaulted in repaying the amounts due by them as shown in Col. No.4, in spite of repeated remainders, consequently these dues have been classified as NPA's as per RBI's guidelines. Notices were sent by Regd. Post to below mention date and that is returned / undelivered. Therefore, the respective borrowers are hereby called upon to repay the outstanding amounts due mentioned against their names in Col No.2 within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which LIC Housing Finance Ltd., would be constrained to initiate proceedings under sec.13 (4) of SARFAESI Act against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereunder against the respective loan A/cs to realize the amounts due to them.

The borrower attention is also invited as per Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, the right of redemption of the secured assets will be available to them only till date of publication of Sale Notice.

Sl No	Name of the Borrower & Loan No	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount (in Rupees)	Description of the Property
1.	**Mr. Suresh Reddy L Loan A/c No. 410100010033**	12.11.2024	Rs. 6835590.00	**All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Site No.2/4, BBMP Khata No.319/536-2/4, formed out of converted land in Sy No.2/4, from Agricultural purpose to Non-agricultural residential purposes vide official/memorandum No.A.L.N (S.U)S.R:19/2008-09, Dated 04/12/2008, issued by the office of the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, Situated at Doddakallsandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 80 Ft and North to South: (165+160)2, in all measuring an extent of 13000 Sq.ft., and bounded on the: East by:Property of M.N. Gosakan, West by: Temple and Road, North by: Property of Rajashekar, South by : Survey No.2/4. Schedule 'B' Property Referred To The Above : 225 Sq.ft, of undivided share, right, title and interest of the land in the Schedule 'A' Property conveyed to the Purchaser herein. Schedule 'C' Property referred to the Above : Flat bearing No.GF-004 in the Ground Floor, in he Apartment building Known as 'Peepal Treee" constructed on Schedule 'A' Property together with Super built up area of 1050 Sq.Ft., consisting of Two Bedrooms, Living, Kitchen, Bathroom and Toilet, etc., including One Car Parking Space, with all common amenities and services in the common area on the land described in Schedule 'A' Property.**
2.	**Ms. Subashini Chandrasekha R Mr. Thirumalai Srinivasan Rengan Iyengar Loan A/c No. 410100011502**	12.11.2024	Rs. 2953168.00	**1) All that piece and Parcel of vacant Site No.24 (carved out of Converted Survey No.318), Khata No.609, BBMP Khata No.2044/609/24, situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and measuring East to West: 42-0' feet and North to South: 30-0' feet, in all admeasuring 1260 square feet and bounded on: East by : Private :Property West by : Road, North by : Road, South by: Site No.24/A. ii) All that piece and Parcel of vacant Site No.24 (carved out of Converted Survey No.318), Khata No.609, BBMP Khata No.2044/609/24, situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and measuring East to West: 40+39/2-0' feet and North to South: 15-0' feet, in all admeasuring 592.5 square feet and bounded on: East by : Private :Property West by : Road, North by : Northern portion of same site (24) South by : Site No.24/A. Schedule 'B' Property : (Now sold in favour of the Purchasers) : Undivided share, right, interest in the schedule A Property, which is works out to 309 sq.feet. Schedule 'C' Property : (Now sold in favour of the Purchasers) : 925 sq.ft., of RCC Roofed residential Flat Ground Floor i.e. GF-2, Sai Durga Enclave, constructed on the Schedule A Property, constructed with Bricks, and Cement, with all civic amenities are available in the Schedule C :Property and right to use the Terrace Area of the third floor and right to use common passages, Staircase and terrace area in the Schedule A Property and 1(one) car parking at stilt floor property bearing site bearing No.24 (carved out of converted survey No.318), Khata No.3069, BBMP Khata No.2044/609/24, situated at Bregur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and both and measuring 1500 Sq.ft.**
3.	**Ms. Hemalatha M N And Mr. Sathya Prakash Karkada Loan A/c No 410100006396**	22.11.2024	Rs. 3482458.00	**SCHEDULE 'A' (Description of the entire property held by the Vendor) : All that piece and parcel of the Residentially converted Land bearing Survey No.81, measuring about 2 acre 04 guntas in extent situated at Kyalasanahalli Village, Jigni Hobli, Anekal Taluk (vide conversion order bearing No.ALN/SR(A) 443 of 2004-05 dated 10-02-2005 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District). Being bounded on the: East by: Road and Rajakaluve West by: Property belonging to Chikkadya Vanna, Yellappa & Ningappa & Property bearing Sy No.86, North by: Remaining portion of the property in survey No.81, South by: Portion of the property in survey No.81. SCHEDULE 'B': (Description of the undivided property hereby conveyed) : Undivided share, Right, title, interest and ownership equivalent to 397 Sq.ft., shares in Schedule 'A' property. SCHEDULE 'C' (Description of the Apartment/Flat) : All that piece and parcel of 2 Bed room Apartment/Flat with distinctive number A-107, in the Ground Floor of the apartment building complex known as 'RICHMOND PRIDE, Phase II having super built up area of 1096 Sq.ft., with one covered car parking space together with proportionate undivided share of the total area which works out to approximately 397 Sq.ft., along with proportionate share in the common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift, staircase contained within the apartment building being constructed on the schedule 'A' property. The building Plan being approved by the ANEKAL PLANNING AUTHORITY, vide their Commencement certificate, No.APA/CC/463/2012-13 dated 06.11.2012. The above apartment id demarcated as per the attached plan. The said apartment shall have granite/marble/vitrified flooring with entrance door, teakwood/other internal doors shall be flush typed doors with Hardwood frames and powder coated aluminium sliding windows and other specifications as mentioned in the Joint Development Agreement dtd.27.08.2009. and bounded on: East by: Flat No. A-108, West by: Flat No. A106 North by: Lawn View, South by: Passage.**
4.	**Mr. C N Subramani and Ms. Anjanamma M Loan A/c No. 412100002458**	19.11.2024	Rs. 3792829.00	**SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property House bearing No.12, BBMP PID No.230/286/12, Assessment No. GP No.old No.22, New No.31, House List No.12, measuring East to West: 24 ½ Feet and North to South: 50 feet, in all total 1225 Sq. feet, situated at Kempapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore and bounded on: East by:Site No.13, West by:Remaining portion of Site No.12, North by:7 feet Passage, South by:Property belongs to Muniyamma.**
5.	**Mr. Christopher Vijaya Kumar and Ms. Rashmi L Loan A/c No. 410700003513**	11.11.2024	Rs. 2141552.00	**SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : (Property conveyed under this deed): All that part and parcel of the property bearing No.106, formed out of converted land bearing Sy.No.14 (duly got converted for Agricultural to Non-Agricultural residential purpose vide order No. ALN/(NY)/SR/242/14-15, dated 13/06/2016, formed the layout in the name of "KEMPEGOWDA ENCLAVE", situated at Shamarajapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, admeasuring East to West: 47 feet and North to South: 30 feet, in all measuring 1410 Sq.feet and bounded on: East by: Private Property, est by: Road, North by:Site No.105,South by: Pathway and Park**
6.	**Ms. Kirti Sharma Loan A/c No. 411900015064**	27.11.2024	Rs. 62,95,093.76	**SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of Southern Portion of Property bearing converted Survey No 88,present BBMP 59/88/1 No. D.A 516/2013-14, earlier portion of BBMP Katha No.59/88/1,No DA/271/2013-14,situated at CHOKKANAHALLI VILLAGE ,Yelahanka Hobli,Bangalore North Taluk ,converted from agricultural to residential purpose vide ALN(NAY) SR NO.272 and 273/07-08 from the Spl.Deputy Commissioner Bangalore,Bangalore District('A' Schedule Property),measuring Easter Side :165 Feet,Western Side :170 feet, Northern Side :111.2 feet Southern Side 111.8 feet ,(165 +170) feet and (110+111.2)/2 feet ,totally 18,592.5 square Feet, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded as follows: East by: Remaining Property in the same survey Number belongs Mr. S. Raja & Others; West by: Remaining Property in the same survey Number belongs to Mr S. Raja & Others; North by : Road South by: Government Rock. SCHEDULE "B" : 393 Sq. ft undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" above. SCHEDULE "C": Flat bearing No.305,in the Third Floor, measuring 1040 Sq.feet super built up area, containing Two bed rooms, together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring together with One covered car parking space, including prop ortionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, etc in the multistoried residential building known as "OMEGA ASTER" constructed over Schedule "A" property.**
7.	**Ms. Zeba Tabassum Loan A/c No. 411900017472**	18.11.2024	Rs. 579252.00	**SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 03, Khata No. 403, measuring East to West 20 Feet and North to South 30 feet, in total measuring 600 Square feet, carved out of converted land bearing Sy No. 153/1 & 153/2,situated at Mandur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, vide conversion No. ALN SR (SA) 109/1995-96, dated 24-06-1996, by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, in the layout called as "ABD DOWNTOWN" bounded on the: Plot No. 2, East by: Site No. 2,West by:Site No. 4; North by: Private Property/ Compound Wall South by: Road**

Place: Bangalore
Date:07/12/2024

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

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Unlocking ₹1 L cr unclaimed bank deposit coffer

New Banking Act along with recent RBI circular may make it easier for depositors to claim money stuck with banks

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE Lok Sabha last week passed a slew of amendments to the banking laws, by bringing in as many as 19 amendments to the existing pieces of legislation governing the banking system, including that of the RBI Act. But of the 19 changes introduced, just two of them go a long way in the real service of the common man —those dealing with the inoperative accounts and the unclaimed deposits in banks which together add up to more than a ₹1 lakh crore, and those governing the nomination facilities at banks.

A day before the bill was passed, the RBI issued a circular to the heads of all banks, mandating them to have a system in place which will be monitored by the board apart from conducting periodic review of the progress of refunds. While the bill does not detail the operative part of the changes except saying that the unclaimed deposits and those stuck in inoperative bank accounts and also those money lost in unclaimed dividends and other financial instruments such as shares will be moved to the investor education and protection fund under the corporate affairs ministry.

KNOW ABOUT BANKING LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Last week, the Lok Sabha passed a slew of amendments to the banking laws

A day before the bill was passed, the RBI issued a circular to the heads of all banks, mandating them to have a system in place

The bill also allows a bank account-holder to simultaneously make four nominees

Banks are mandated to generate a unique UDRN for each unclaimed account or deposit

DEC 2023

more than ₹1 lakh crore of public money is stuck in inoperative bank accounts

The bill also allows a bank account-holder to simultaneously make four nominees so that successors of an account holder are not locked out of the money or someone with a fixed deposit is able to access the fund once the account holder is no more. An account holder can opt for either simultaneous nomination or percentage of shares or can go in for successive nomination wherein nominees inherit in a predefined order. The operative details will come when the amendments get the presidential consent and then notified section by section by the corporate affairs ministry. Meanwhile, the RBI circular lays out the process for banks to inform the account holders automatically of the inoperative nature of their accounts or unclaimed deposits via SMS or email.

Three days to process requests: Banks must process requests to activate inoperative accounts or unclaimed deposits within three working days of receiving a complete application.

Annual reviews: Banks will conduct annual reviews of accounts that have had no customer transactions for over a year and the such reviews will have to be reported to a board-level person in the bank.

Udgam portal: The RBI has developed a dedicated portal called the Udgam a few years back to help registered users to search for unclaimed deposits and accounts from multiple banks.

UDRN (unclaimed deposits reference number): Banks are mandated to generate a unique UDRN for each unclaimed account or deposit. This number prevents third parties from identifying the account holder or bank branch.

To claim an unclaimed deposit or activate an inoperative account, one can also write to the branch justifying why the account has been dormant. According to the government, as of December 2023, more than ₹1 lakh crore of public money is stuck in inoperative bank accounts of which over ₹42,200 are in unclaimed deposits alone.

IN CONVERSATION

SRIKANTH SUBRAMANIAN
Co-Founder & CEO of Ionic Wealth (formerly Angel One Wealth Ltd.)

'Wealth management industry likely to grow at a CAGR of 25-30%'

THE investment strategies of the ultra-rich have always intrigued retail investors, especially amidst the astronomical rise in the number of high-net worth individuals (HNIs) and ultra-high-net worth individuals (UHNIs) in recent years. With the wealth management sector now managing assets estimated at $1–1.2 trillion, the industry is undergoing rapid transformation, driven by a growing base of high-net-worth individuals, asset appreciation, and shifting client expectations.

In an interaction with The New Indian Express' **Arshad Khan**, **Srikanth Subramanian**, Co-Founder & CEO of Ionic Wealth (formerly Angel One Wealth Ltd.), shares his insights on the evolution of India's wealth management industry, opportunities in global markets, and where the super-rich are channelling their investments. Edited excerpts:

How has the wealth management business evolved over the years? Where do you see its future in the next 5-10 years?

The wealth management industry in India has witnessed tremendous evolution, reaching market size with current assets under management estimated between $1-1.2 trillion. We are confident in the "Triple Multiplier Effect" driving this growth – an expanding segment of high-net-worth individuals at 16%, continued asset appreciation at 10%, and 3-5% incremental growth in earnings and savings. Together, these factors have the potential to increase the industry forward with a CAGR of 25-30%.

How are HNIs and UHNIs clients different from average retail investors?

HNIs and UHNIs, especially the new generation from family businesses, approach wealth management with a more strategic and expansive vision than a retail investor. While retail investors focus on short-term financial goals, HNIs and UHNIs focus on legacy, wealth preservation, and diversified growth. This generation, shaped by international exposure through education or work experience, brings a global mind-set and is actively exploring opportunities beyond traditional investment products.

There are signs of slowdown in the domestic economy. However, all of this is likely to be transient and the current domestic investing landscape can be an opportunity to invest for the long term.

The share market is trading around record-high levels. Would you enter the market at the current prices or wait for the valuations to become a little more attractive?

India had seen an unprecedented run in equities in the last 3 years. This had pushed the valuations on the expensive side. Now, the earnings are slowing as is seen in the latest earnings season. Of the data releases, BSE 500 PAT has contracted by 4% YoY. Additionally, external events such as the US elections and geopolitical tensions are creating a global risk-off environment which is reflecting on India equities. There are signs of slowdown in the domestic economy, as is seen by the high frequency data. However, all of this is likely to be transient and the current domestic investing landscape can rather be an opportunity to invest for the long term.

Besides equity, what are the other avenues you prefer or advise your clients to invest into?

Beyond equities, we advise clients to consider a well-diversified approach across several asset classes- debt, precious metals, commodities, FX, unlisted equities, global equities, credit and more. On the Indian debt, we believe strong demand for Indian bonds, coupled with improvements in the twin deficit, points to a favourable long-term outlook for bonds. In the global equities space, we are proposing a stable US and a tactical China allocation. Given the mix of valuations available worldwide, there's a huge case of Indian investors to avoid home bias and take advantage of the global opportunities. Precious metals are attractive in today's market, especially as they typically perform well during periods of equity volatility, offering a perfect hedge against equity.

MONEY-WISE

TORCH-LIGHT ON MULTI-CAP FUNDS

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

AFTER commencing a discussion on Multi Cap Funds in the last column, let us now turn the Torchlight on some randomly selected funds from this category. These include HDFC Multi Cap Fund, HSBC Multi Cap Fund, ICICI Prudential Multi Cap Fund, SBI Multi Cap Fund, Sundaram Multi Cap Fund and ITI Multi Cap Fund.

HDFC Multi Cap Fund has an AUM of ₹17,249 crore. The current Asset allocation mix is nearly 45% in Large Cap, 27 % in Mid Cap and 26% in Small Cap.

The top holdings are in the Financial Services, Capital Goods and Information Technology sectors.

Being a relatively newer entrant into this space, the returns of this fund over the 6 month and 1-year time periods are 9.66% and 28.49% respectively.

ICICI Prudential Multi Cap Fund has an AUM of ₹14,152 crore. The current Asset allocation mix is nearly 43% in Large Cap, 27% in Mid Cap and 29% in Small Cap.

The top holdings are in the Banks, IT-Software and Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology sectors. The returns of this fund over a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year time periods are 32.57%, 21.15 % and 21.48% respectively.

SBI Multi Cap Fund has an AUM of ₹18,603 crore. The current Asset Allocation mix is nearly 31% in Large Cap, 26% in Mid Cap and 36% in Small Cap.

The top holdings are in the Banks, Consumer durables and Finance sectors.

Being a relatively newer entrant into this space, the returns of this fund over the 6-month and 1-year time periods are 14.50% and 29.86% respectively.

Sundaram Multi Cap Fund has an AUM of ₹2,759 crore. The current Asset Allocation mix is nearly 44% in Large Cap, 27% in Mid Cap and 27% in Small Cap.

The top holdings are in the Banks, Consumer Durables, and Finance sectors. The returns of this fund over a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year time periods are 27.47%, 16.34% and 20.23% respectively.

HSBC Multi Cap Fund has an AUM of ₹4,165 crore. The current Asset allocation mix is nearly 42% in Large Cap, 26% in Mid Cap and 31% in Small Cap.

The top holdings are in the Banks, IT-Software and Electrical Equipment sectors.

Being a relatively newer entrant into this space, the returns of this fund over the 6 month and 1-year time periods are 12.23% and 34.87 % respectively.

ITI Multi Cap Fund has an AUM of ₹1,360 crore. The current Asset Allocation mix is nearly 41% in Large Cap, 25 % in Mid Cap and 32 % in Small Cap.

The top holdings of this fund are in the Financial Services, Capital Goods and Information Technology sectors. The performance of this fund over a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year time periods are 29.77%, 19.34 % and 16.07% respectively.

Like all other equity mutual funds, Multi Cap Funds too need to be viewed and held as long-term investments to derive optimal benefit.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW TO MAKE SENSE OF DIVERSIFICATION

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE year 2024 was an eventful one. Gold prices touched a record high, gaining 25% or more. Equity prices represented by the Sensex and the Nifty 50 rose 13%. The broader market did even better if you look at the performance of a broader index like the Nifty 500. Crypto markets witnessed Bitcoin touching the price of $100,000.

A lot is happening in the property sector, too. Real estate prices rose steadily in 2024 across major real estate markets. Two factors show the property market's health—inventory with developers and buyers' affordability. Developers have held inventory for an average of 16-17 months. It is the lowest level in 15 years and 40% below the 15-year average, according to an analysis by UBS, a global bank. The affordability of real estate across cities, measured by income to property prices ratio, is at the most substantial level in 15 years. The data shows that it may be a good time for you to own property.

Another factor that drives investment in equity or real estate is the interest rate and inflation outlook. There was no significant change in interest rates in 2024. That was primarily due to the stubbornly high consumer price inflation. The RBI monetary policy committee left interest rates unchanged last week as inflation fears continue. That is despite calls from the central government to bring down borrowing rates as economic growth slowed in the September 2024 quarter. RBI cut the cash reserve ratio or CRR by 0.5%. That is, the money banks must set aside as a percentage of their loan book as a part of the capital adequacy requirements. That is required to protect bank balance sheets against any loan-related problems. The RBI continues to focus on bringing down the inflation. From your standpoint, you need to pray that RBI succeeds in doing so in 2025. Market experts are excited about the prospects for investing across sectors in 2025. However, you need to understand the risks that lie ahead. The headline data shows that India's economic growth is slowing.

The quarterly results announced by most companies do not paint a rosy picture either. Many analysts have cut growth and earnings estimates for companies. In such a situation, fundamentally, share prices do not justify any significant rally. While the long-term prospects for the Indian consumption market are significant, urban consumers are spending less in the short term. That hurts businesses that rely on selling goods and services to them. If more people buy property with loans, it may lock up significant savings into the real estate market for a few years.

MANOHAR PARDIKAR

What should be your plan

Diversification is the first thing they teach you when you try learning about financial planning. You must spread your risk across multiple asset classes or a diverse pool of companies to protect you from the downside in any particular asset class or stock. The performance of the Nifty 500 index over 15 years will show that a multi-cap presence in the stock market works. The Nifty 500 index has done better than the Nifty 50 for 15 years. It has also worked with the S&P 500 in the US, as it has outperformed the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Considering your risk profile and broader trend across asset classes, your financial advisor will tell you to make an appropriate asset allocation. If you are new to equity investing and planning for retirement, you must ensure that the retirement money stays invested for 15-20 years. A diversified index like the Nifty 500 can be a good option, considering the steady economic and profit growth outlook. If you are new to investing, an exchange-traded fund based on a diversified index like the Nifty 500 is a wonderful first step. You only need your will to support you in staying invested.

Over-aggressive fiscal deficit target to hit growth, says CII

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AMIDST the growing voices for a less aggressive fiscal consolidation road map, industry body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has suggested sticking to the fiscal deficit target of 4.9% of GDP for FY25 and a target of 4.5% FY26. However, CII has also pointed out that overly aggressive targets beyond the ones mentioned could adversely affect growth.

CII has also welcomed the announcement in the Union Budget 2024-25 to keep the fiscal deficit at levels that help reduce the debt to GDP ratio. In preparation for this, the forthcoming budget could lay out a glide path to bring the Central Government's debt to below 50% of GDP in the medium term (by 2030-31), and below 40% of GDP in the long term, CII has suggested. "Such an explicit target would have a positive impact on India's sovereign credit rating, and further on the interest rates in the economy in general," said the industry body in a press statement. To aid longer term fiscal planning, the government should consider instituting Fiscal Stability Reporting. This could include issuing annual reports on fiscal risks under different stress scenarios and the outlook for fiscal stability. The exercise will help forecast potential economic headwinds or tailwinds and assess their impact on the fiscal path. "India has been growing rapidly amidst a slowing global economy. Prudent fiscal management for macroeconomic stability has been pivotal to this growth," said Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII. "The fiscal management has maintained the perfect balance between the fiscal deficit and fiscal support to growth. This has provided macroeconomic stability to the economy and helped build resilience in an environment of great global economic uncertainty," added Banerjee.

TVS launches iQube E-scooter in Sri Lanka

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

CHENNAI-based TVS Motor Company (TVSM) on Sunday launched a new 2.2 kWh battery variant of the TVS iQube electric scooter in Sri Lanka.

TVS iQube now offers three variants in six colours. The new 2.2 kWh battery variant of the TVS iQube is designed to make premium electric mobility more accessible and reduce the total cost of ownership for customers. Madhu Prakash Singh, Vice President, EV, International Business, TVS Motor Company, said, "We are delighted by the growing adoption of the TVS iQube in Sri Lanka within just a few months of its launch." Globally, the TVS iQube has crossed a milestone of 400,000 customers.

UPI enables expansion of credit among underserved borrowers: Study

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

UNIFIED Payments Interface (UPI) has enabled underserved borrowers to access formal credit for the first time as loans to new-to-credit borrowers in regions with high UPI adoption have increased by 4% and to subprime borrowers by 8%, according to a study.

Titled Open Banking and Digital Payments: Implications for Credit Access, the study points out that the UPI, since its launch in 2016, has enabled 300 million individuals and 50 million merchants to perform seamless digital transactions. It points out that the average size of a fintech loan was ₹ 27,778, which is about seven times the rural monthly expenditure. Pointing out credit growth through UPI, the study said between 2015 and 2019, fintech loans to subprime borrowers grew to match those of banks, with fintechs thriving in high UPI-usage areas. Also, a 10% increase in UPI transactions led to a 7% rise in credit availability, reflecting how digital financial histories enabled lenders to assess borrowers better, the report stated.

Despite the credit surge, default rates did not rise, showing that UPI-enabled digital transaction data helped lenders expand responsibly, it said.

About 75% of all retail digital payments in the country till October 2023 were done through UPI, adds the study. From 1 million transactions in October 2016, UPI transactions increased to about 10 billion in October 2023. As per GlobalData research, cash transactions declined from 90% of the total volume in 2017 to less than 60% in 2021, with UPI and other digital transaction systems accounting for the remaining. India's success with UPI offers a replicable model for other nations, showcasing how combining public digital infrastructure with open banking policies can reduce financial exclusion, foster innovation, it said.

Oz women hammer India, clinch series

Georgia Voll (101) and Ellyse Perry (105) smashed commanding centuries as Australia secured a series-clinching 122-run win over India in the second women's ODI in Brisbane on Sunday. After electing to bat, Australia displayed ruthless intent, posting a mammoth 371 for 8. The hosts then bowled out India for 249 in 44.5 overs.

Adelaide not so pretty in pink for the visitors

Cummins takes fifer as Australia level series 1-1 with 10-wkt win

GOMESH S @ Chennai

A disappointed Rohit Sharma (L) with bowling coach Morne Morkel (C) on Sunday | AP

SCOREBOARD

India 1st innings: 180; Australia 1st innings 337 in 87.3 ovs; India 2nd innings: Jaiswal c Carey b Boland 24, Rahul c Carey b Cummins 7, Gill b Starc 28, Kohli c Carey b Boland 11, Pant c Smith b Starc 28, Sharma b Cummins 6, Reddy c McSweeney b Cummins 42, Ashwin c Carey b Cummins 7, Rana c Khawaja b Cummins 0, Bumrah not out 2; Siraj c Head b Boland 7; **Extras:** (B-5, LB-2, W-3, NB-3) 13; **Total:** (10 wkts, 36.5 ovs) 175; **FoW:** 128-6, 148-7, 153-8, 166-9; **Bowler:** Starc 14-1-60-2, Cummins 14-0-57-5, Boland 8.5-0-51-3; **Australia 2nd Innings:** McSweeney not out 10, Khawaja not out 9; **Extras:** 0; **Total:** 19; **Bowler:** Bumrah 1-0-2-0, Siraj 1.2-0-9-0, Reddy 1-0-8-0.

WE were not good enough with the bat." That was India captain Rohit Sharma on Sunday afternoon attempting to sum up their ten-wicket loss against Australia in the pink ball Test at Adelaide.

At this point, it is a phrase Rohit had to repeat after every Test he has captained since October 16. It all began on that gloomy Bengaluru day where he chose to face the media after India crumbled for 46 runs in the first innings against New Zealand. From day two evening till day three at the Adelaide Oval, there hasn't been a day where Rohit has walked back off the field at stumps knowing that they had a good day at work.

From admitting that he was wrong in Bengaluru, to acknowledging that they were not good enough in Adelaide, Rohit had accepted the defeat on the face of it in a very pragmatic, matter-of-fact manner. While it looked good to hear the captain own his mistakes in Bengaluru, hearing very similar things after every match since has led to a perception of whether he and the team are not learning from the things that they did wrong.

Come back to Adelaide again. After opting to bat first on day one, India did not last more than two sessions. The challenge of playing pink ball is well established, but the manner in which India's batting failed — similar kinds of dismissals among some of them, captain's poor form with the bat this time in a new position — meant there was a clear pattern. Jasprit Bumrah cannot conjure magic every time the team gets out for a below par score and that is exactly what happened here. India were all out in 44.1 overs, but barring Bumrah, others could not replicate a similar kind of success and that cost them dearly. The second innings was also the same story, except this time they were staring down a barrel (read the 157-run lead Australia had on them).

If you are not going to spend more than 81 overs in the middle across both innings (44.1 and 36.5), there is no way on earth you can come back into the contest. So when Rishabh Pant and Nitish K Reddy started day three, they were living on borrowed time. For them, to pull India out of that hole, they would have had to replicate something similar to Kolkata 2001 or Adelaide 2003. In the end, Pat Cummins took five wickets and Australia walked away with a win, levelling the series 1-1.

The good thing is that India have ample time to come back from this deficit in the five-match series. Their next stop is Brisbane and in less than a week, they will be on the field again. That could be the reason why Rohit is hopeful. "There's definitely a way for us to get back into the game. We need to find that within ourselves, how we need to do that. There are a lot of individuals in that dressing room who have played a lot of cricket, won a lot of games, have come back from difficult situations in the past. We hope that everyone stands up to that challenge and takes the team through whenever it's required," he said.

The next ten days will tell whether they did or we hear another "not good enough" quote from Rohit.

Gukesh takes giant leap towards title

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
TNIE@WORLD CHESS C'SHIP
SINGAPORE

THIS kid, eh? He doesn't know when he's beaten. He doesn't say no to a completely new challenge. And he very politely takes down a world champion.

On Sunday, D Gukesh took a giant step towards becoming the youngest World chess champion in history after beating Ding Liren with White pieces. With his second win, the match is now 6-5 in the Indian's favour with three games to go. If he can avoid defeat in the remaining games, he will become only the second from India to hold the biggest crown in all of chess .

That paragraph, however, barely scratches the surface of what transpired on a manic Sunday. It had more twists and turns than the many rides and attractions at Universal Studios, one of the neighbouring landmarks in Sentosa. If Saturday's game was a snoozefest, this caught fire as soon as Gukesh revealed his hands by playing an Opening he had never before played in his relatively short competitive career (Reti, Reversed Blumenfeld Gambit). Because this game hadn't been part of the Indian's repertoire, Liren was off prep after a couple of moves. His position was already complicated after he made the committal 3...c5 rather than the more unsexy but solid e3. When Gukesh blitzed out his response, Liren was already unhappy. He didn't like where this was going so he settled in for a very deep thinking state. By the time he made his next two moves, his opponent had achieved his opening goal.

Gukesh's first five moves had taken less than 40 seconds. For Liren? More than an hour. He had also derived a small advantage so he had something concrete to work on. But the margins at this level are so minute, it can all turn. One moment, Gukesh was celebrating. One misjudgment later (9...d3 rather than c5), his pieces were on quicksand, all struggling for oxygen. That momentum shift was visible in the viewing hall as the teen became cross with himself. Liren knew he was off the hook.

For one hour, Gukesh brooded over the chessboard. It was his turn to move but the enormity of the situation had him like a hurricane. So he sat there in his gaming chair, to allow himself a moment — or an hour — to calm himself. He realised he had not only lost his advantage but was also in real danger of losing the game. By the time he found a holding move - 11...g3 - all, it seemed, was genuinely lost (in the post-game press conference, he kept calling his contributions in this phase 'stupid'). Soon after spending an hour, he wanted to compose himself further. So, off he went inside the players' lounge. Liren had already blitzed a response but Gukesh wanted a few moments away. He told himself to keep fighting. His only goal, going forward, was to keep surviving. On the commentary for *chess24*, both Anish Giri and Peter Leko gave a sense of the task. "Not sure it's humanly impossible to find all the moves even though the computer doesn't mind Gukesh's position (-0.2)," they said. It was because his opponent controlled the important squares and the Knight was on its way to occupy the crucial c5 square. An active game of cat and mouse began on the board with the Chennai boy happy to cling on to anything vaguely resembling comfort. That's when he found 16...a4. In hindsight, this was the move which changed everything.

It gave him room to breathe, a way out of this mess and, potentially, a way to ask some basic questions. The next few moves allowed him to mobilise his bishop, continue the b pawn's progress and put some pressure on Liren's Queen. He also managed a way to remove the all powerful c5 Knight. All these precise moves also put pressure on Liren to spend some time.

With both players racing against the clock to meet the first time control (an average of less than 90 seconds per move), who would blink first? Liren blinked with 21...Rd7. The imbalance was too much and Liren blundered twice in a matter of minutes as the engine went from +0.7 to 4+. A curt handshake followed. The final rites followed after the fatalistic 28...Qc8 as he was now dropping a piece. As soon as Liren played it on the board, Gukesh took the hanging Knight with his Queen to administer the kiss of death to his opponent.

As soon as Liren resigned, chants of Gukesh emanated from the lobby of the playing venue (lots of Indians had congregated inside the fanzone from as early as 4.00 PM thanks to it being a Sunday). A few hours later, this normally quiet five-star hotel witnessed surreal scenes as people started screaming 'Bharat mata ki jai' before serenading the teen and his father.

D Gukesh beat Ding Liren in Game 11 to take a 6-5 lead in the ongoing World Chess Championship on Sunday | FIDE

HOW THE GAME PLAYED OUT

1	Nf3 d5	16	a4 h5
2	c4 d4	17	b6 Qd6
3	b4 c5	18	Ba3 Bh6
4	e3 Nf6	19	Bxc5 Qxc5
5	a3 Bg4	20	Qe4 Nc6
6	exd4 cxd4	21	Na3 Rd7
7	h3 Bxf3	22	Nc2 Qxb6
8	Qxf3 Qc7	23	Rab1 Qc7
9	d3 a5	24	Rb5 O-O
10	b5 Nbd7	25	Na1 Rb8
11	g3 Nc5	26	Nb3 e6
12	Bg2 Nfd7	27	Nc5 Re7
13	O-O Ne5	28	Rdb1 Qc8
14	Qf4 Rd8	29	Qxc6
15	Rd1 g6		

RESULT: 1-0
Game length: 29 moves
Opening: Reti
Variation: Reversed Blumenfeld Gambit
Match score: 6-5

3 Gukesh will become the youngest World Champion as long as he avoids defeat in the remaining three games

Liren will play with White in the 12th game on Monday
5.00 PM Singapore (2.30 PM IST)

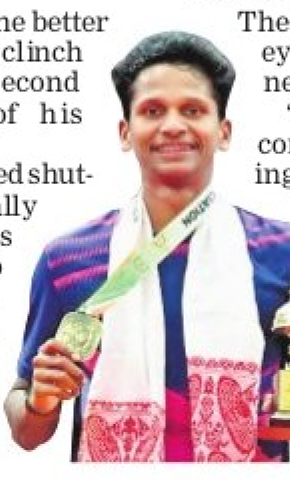
Super outcome for shuttler Sathish in Guwahati

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

SATHISH Kumar Karunakaran is one of the singles aspirants from India looking to follow the path of Lakshya Sen at the highest level. He's mindful that it's going to be a steep climb. It's a gruelling process that has the potential to challenge the patience of many. Only a few generally tend to overcome that strenuous phase and come out on the other side. Each victory is a step towards the right direction. That was the case for the shuttler from Tamil Nadu as he captured the men's singles crown at the Guwahati Masters Super 100 in Guwahati on Sunday.

On paper, the Super 100 might be the lowest level on BWF World Tour (Grade 2), but for Sathish, this is just the push that he needed. "I'm happy. I was actually waiting for this win. For the last six to ten months, I was struggling, I was not getting any breakthrough at all," Sathish, who beat Zhu Xuan Chen of China in the final, told this daily.

All in all, he got the better of five shuttlers to clinch the top prize, his second Super 100 title of his career.



The Chennai-based shuttler, who's originally from Coimbatore, is naturally eager to ride on this momentum and emulate this performance in the upcoming Odisha Masters 2024, which is scheduled to be held from December 10 to 15. Barely hours after his success, the World No 49 was already making his way to the airport for that event in Cuttack. Incidentally, that is the same venue where Sathish had captured his first Super 100 title last year.

The 23-year-old also has his eyes on bigger events next year.

"This will give further confidence as I'll be taking part in big events, All England and all that, from 2025."

Given the demands of the sport at the elite level, Sathish has been training in Malaysia for the last year or so in order to raise his game and he's happy with the things that he has learnt so far.

"I have coaches and trainers, who have been fully behind me. They have set a programme for me. It (Malaysia training) has helped me a great deal. After going there, my style has gradually changed. I'm more aggressive," he said.

Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto beat China's Li Hua Zhou and Wang Zi Meng 21-18, 21-12 in the final. However, Anmol Kharb lost her title match against Cai Yan Yan of China.

Finals (India results): Women's singles: Anmol Kharb (IND) **lost to** Cai Yan Yan (CHN) 21-14, 13-21, 19-21; **Women's doubles:** Ashwini Ponnappa/Tanisha Crasto (IND) **bt** Li Hua Zhou/Wang Zi Meng (CHN) 21-18, 21-12. **Men's singles:** Sathish Kumar Karunakaran (IND) **bt** Zhu Xuan Chen (CHN) 21-17, 21-14.

Returning from injury, Priya claims 76kg crown

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

PRIYA Malik had won a handful of international medals in age group events and also bagged a bronze on her international debut in senior category at the Asian Championship last year. The impressive show meant the Haryana wrestler was considered favourite to book a ticket for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Fate had something else in store for her as she injured her left knee to miss the selection trials for the Olympic Qualifiers (Asian and World) in March. Reetika Hooda, another wrestler from Haryana, not only made her way to the national team but also became the first woman grappler from the country to book an Olympic ticket in the heavyweight category. However, she lost in the quarterfinal in Paris. On Sunday, Priya and Reetika were in for a showdown at the Senior National Championship in Bengaluru and the prize was 76kg gold. Priya won the contest 10-0 (by technical superiority). "The injury kept her out for almost six months and the selection trials happened during that period. It was indeed a difficult time for her and us," Jaibhagwan Malik, Priya's father, told this daily. Haryana won the overall championship in women's wrestling with 235 points.

Disciplinary action on RSPB?

The Wrestling Federation of India also held its annual general meeting on the last day of the competition. As the Railway Sports Promotion Board decided not to send entries for the tournament because the WFI remains suspended by the sports ministry, the federation discussed the issue in the AGM. "The RSPB even forced a wrestler to pull out after winning a bout. The member units have authorised the WFI president Sanjay Kumar Singh to initiate action against. Whatever decision he takes will be put before the executive board, which in turn will place it before the AGM for approval. A disciplinary action could be taken against the Railway as it is affiliated to the WFI and cannot skip the meet like this," a source keeping a track of the developments said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring against Girona | AFP

Real close gap on Barcelona

AGENCIES @ Barcelona

JUDE Bellingham guided champions Real Madrid to a comfortable 3-0 victory at Girona on Saturday in La Liga, with Kylian Mbappe also on the scoresheet after two high-profile penalty misses in recent games. Los Blancos cut the gap on league leaders Barcelona to two points after the Catalans drew 2-2 at Real Betis, with Madrid having played one fewer match.

Bellingham opened the scoring before half-time and set up Turkish playmaker Arda Guler for Madrid's second, before Mbappe produced a clinical finish for their third.Girona, eighth in La Liga, welcome Liverpool in the Champions League on Tuesday. Valencia lost 1-0 to Rayo Vallecano. Las Palmas also beat Valladolid 2-1.

Chelsea's Cole Palmer (L) celebrates after scoring against Tottenham | AFP

EXPRESS READ

Cyclist Marchant collides on track

LONDON: Olympic & world champion cyclist Katy Marchant was taken to hospital after crashing at the Track Champions League. Spectators were also injured after Britain's Marchant collided with Germany's Alessa-Catriona Propster in first round.

B'desh beat India to win U19 men's Asia Cup

DUBAI: Defending champions Bangladesh beat India by 59 runs to retain their ACC U19 Men's Asia Cup title here on Sunday. India dismissed Bangladesh for 198 but batters crumbled as they folded for 139 runs in 35.2 overs.

Big victory for Chelsea, Arsenal held by Fulham

AGENCIES @ London

CHELSEA roared back from two goals down to beat Tottenham 4-3 on Sunday, moving just four points behind Premier League leaders Liverpool.

Spurs raced into an early 2-0 lead but Enzo Maresca's men turned the match on its head, scoring four times, including two penalties from England forward Cole Palmer, before a late goal from Son Heung-min.

Earlier, Arsenal missed the chance to close to within four points of Liverpool after being held to a 1-1 draw at Fulham.

Bukayo Saka had a late winner ruled out by a VAR review for offside as the Gunners' four-match winning streak was halted in west London. Raul Jimenez had fired Fulham into an early lead before William Saliba levelled thanks to another Arsenal goal from a corner.

Arsenal were still without influential defensive duo Gabriel Magalhaes and Riccardo Calafiori and Fulham exposed a makeshift left side of the Gunners' backline to take the lead.

Bournemouth also scored twice in the dying minutes to beat Ipswich 2-1. **Results:** Fulham **1-1** Arsenal; Ipswich **1-2** Bournemouth; Leicester **2-2** Brighton; Tottenham **3-4** Chelsea.

Norris triumphs to help McLaren seal title

AGENCIES @ Abu Dhabi

LANDO Norris coolly claimed victory in a tense, emotional and incident-filled Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday to deliver McLaren's first constructors' championship in 26 years as Lewis Hamilton finished a remarkable fourth in his final race for Mercedes.

The 25-year-old Norris came home 5.832 seconds ahead of Carlos Sainz and his team-mate Charles Leclerc to end Ferrari's title challenge on a night of accidents, penalties and tantrums under the floodlights at the Yas Marina Circuit. "Papaya on top!" said Norris on his slowdown lap after the season-closing race. "Congrats to everyone. Incredible. So proud of you all. You all deserve this. It's been a special one. Next year is going to be my year too."

McLaren had not won the teams' title since 1998, the year before Norris was born, and started the day with a lead of 21 points and a front row lockout, but saw Oscar Piastri sent spinning in a clash with Max Verstappen at the first corner.

Lando Norris (C) won the Abu Dhabi GP as McLaren secured the constructors' championship on Sunday | AP

STANDINGS (TOP 5)

CONSTRUCTORS'		DRIVERS'
McLaren, 666	1	Max Verstappen, Red Bull, 437
Ferrari, 652	2	Lando Norris, McLaren, 374
Red Bull, 589	3	Charles Leclerc, Ferrari, 356
Mercedes, 468	4	Oscar Piastri, McLaren, 292
Aston Martin, 94	5	Carlos Sainz, Ferrari, 290

HAMILTON BIDS FAREWELL TO MERC

Lewis Hamilton finished a remarkable fourth in his final race for Mercedes. Starting from 16th, was up to 12th by lap 10. After that he raced brilliantly before finishing on a high. He snatched fourth from teammate George Russell on the final lap.

Mohun Bagan win to go top

ENS/AGENCIES @ Guwahati

MOHUN Bagan Super Giant posted a 2-0 win over NorthEast United FC in the ISL here on Sunday. Two sublime strikes from Manvir Singh and Liston Colaco in the second half gave the Mariners all three points. With this win, Mohun Bagan went top of the table with 23 points.

The opening goal came in the 65th minute when Manvir made a beautiful cut in from the right flank before nestling the ball into the top left corner. Liston lost his marker with a fine cut-in before curling it past Gurmeet Singh on the far post to double the lead in the 71st minute.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

SSC STENOGRAPHER	CTET	RRB JE
Date: December 10 & 11, 2024	Date: December 15, 2025	Date: December 16, 17 & 18, 2024

Famous scores, no pressure!

From tech icons to Hollywood royalty — who aced it, who didn't?

Mark Zuckerberg aced the SAT with a perfect 1600, then founded Facebook — proving he was always good at connecting.

Bill Gates, with a near-perfect 1590, turned his SAT score into the Microsoft empire.

Kesha hit a high note with 1500, but swapped books for beats to become a pop star.

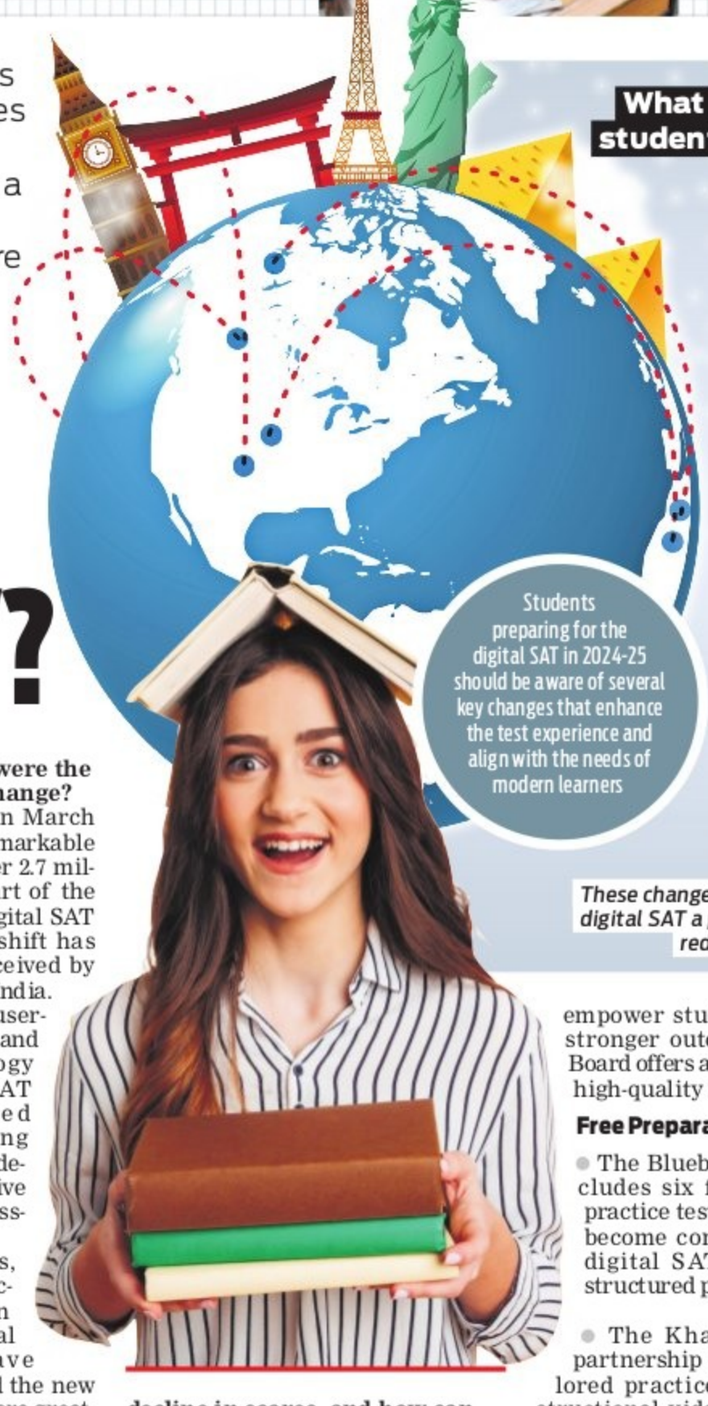
Jesse Eisenberg, with a score of 1260, had enough brains to play Zuckerberg on-screen, but not quite to rival him in real life.

Courteney Cox scored 1150, and we'll bet Monica would have insisted on studying harder.

Bill Clinton earned a modest 1030, but still managed to charm his way to the presidency (and a Rhodes Scholarship!).

The age-old tradition of pen-and-paper exams is witnessing a digital revolution. As high-stakes tests like the SAT embrace online formats, millions of Indian students find themselves at a crossroads. What changes will digitalisation bring? **Saumya Solanki** & **Varsha Sagi** explore

SAT'S DIGITAL MAKEOVER — ARE YOU READY?



Students preparing for the digital SAT in 2024-25 should be aware of several key changes that enhance the test experience and align with the needs of modern learners

What key changes in the SAT format should students preparing for 2024-25 be aware of?

Shorter Duration: The test now takes approximately two hours, making it more focused and less time-intensive while maintaining its rigour.

Adaptive Testing: The introduction of adaptive testing tailors the difficulty of questions based on student responses, creating a more personalised and efficient evaluation process.

Calculator Use: A calculator is now allowed throughout the Math section, enabling students to focus on problem-solving rather than manual calculations.

Faster Results: Results are delivered in days, not weeks, allowing students to plan their college applications more effectively and meet deadlines with ease.

These changes, alongside a streamlined, user-friendly interface, make the digital SAT a progressive tool that better assesses college readiness while reducing the stress associated with traditional testing formats.

THE United States, the global hotspot for higher education, has long captivated the aspirations of students and parents worldwide. For countless Indian students, the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) has been the golden key unlocking doors to prestigious American universities, but as the landscape of higher education is shifting, the SAT has also evolved, transforming itself into a dynamic online experience, incorporating a change made to "better align with modern learning and reduce test-related stress."

This digital revolution brings a plethora of changes, from shorter test durations to the faster delivery of results. The goal? A more accurate and efficient assessment. However, these changes lead to an intriguing question: Will this shift level the playing field or create new challenges? To answer this question, we spoke to Rushi Sheth, Vice-President of the International division of College Board, the exam conducting body.

> *College Board remains committed to supporting students in achieving their academic aspirations*
>
> —Rushi Sheth, VP, College Board's International division

• SAT has observed many changes over the years, now the SAT has gone digital internationally. How are students, particularly from countries like India where paper tests were the norm, adapting to this change?

Since its digital launch in March 2023, the SAT has seen remarkable adoption globally, with over 2.7 million SAT tests taken as part of the more than nine million digital SAT Suite assessments. This shift has been particularly well-received by students and educators in India.

The shorter duration, user-friendly interface, and adaptive technology of the digital SAT have resonated strongly, aligning with the growing demand for innovative and efficient assessment methods.

Indian students, known for their academic ambition and technological adeptness, have quickly embraced the new format, which offers greater accessibility and convenience. This adoption reflects the readiness of Indian test-takers to adapt to modern tools that assess not just knowledge, but critical thinking and problem-solving skills — qualities essential for success in global higher education.

• The average SAT score globally for 2024 is 1024. What steps are being taken to address the decline in scores, and how can Indian students leverage resources like the India Scholars Program to improve outcomes?

The average SAT score for 2024 stands at 1024, reflecting the global diversity of test-takers and varying levels of access to resources.

For many students, the SAT serves as an opportunity to showcase their potential, and it's natural for scores to reflect the breadth of experiences and preparedness across regions. To empower students and support stronger outcomes, the College Board offers a range of accessible, high-quality resources:

Free Preparation Tools

- The Bluebook testing app includes six full-length official practice tests, helping students become comfortable with the digital SAT format through structured practice.
- The Khan Academy partnership delivers tailored practice plans, instructional videos, and detailed question analyses to help students focus on areas of improvement.

test ready

India Scholars Program

- This initiative provides high-achieving Indian students with scholarships and other benefits, removing financial barriers and enabling them to prepare with confidence and determination.

By leveraging these tools, Indian students can unlock their full potential, adopt effective preparation strategies, and achieve success.

• We're seeing students with perfect Grade Point Average (GPAs) score poorly on SATs, and some average students ace it. What explains this fascinating pattern?

The observation underscores the SAT's unique role in highlighting diverse strengths. This pattern underscores the complementary role of the SAT and academic grades in providing a holistic view of a student's abilities.

The SAT's adaptive testing format, shorter structure, and emphasis on efficiency and reasoning may favour students who are strong test-takers and are comfortable with its format.

Together, GPAs and SAT scores enable colleges to identify well-rounded candidates, ensuring admissions decisions reflect both academic diligence and the ability to thrive in a dynamic, analytical environment.

Knowing the difference can make all the difference!

Master these commonly confused words to excel in the SAT

Affect (verb) vs Effect (noun)

Affect: To influence | **Example:** The weather can affect your mood.

Effect: A result | **Example:** The new law had a significant effect on the economy.

Their, There, They're

Their: Possessive form of "they" | **Example:** Their car is parked outside.

There: Refers to a place | **Example:** The book is over there.

They're: Contraction of "they are" | **Example:** They're going to the concert tonight.

Your vs You're

Your: Possessive form of "you" | **Example:** Is that your backpack?

You're: Contraction of "you are" | **Example:** You're ready for the test.

Its vs It's

Its: Possessive form of "it" | **Example:** The cat licked its paws.

It's: Contraction of "it is" | **Example:** It's raining outside.

Then vs Than

Then: Refers to time. | **Example:** Finish your homework, then you can play.

Than: Used for comparisons. | **Example:** She is taller than her brother.

To, Too, Two

To: Preposition. | **Example:** We're going to the park.

Too: Also or excessively. | **Example:** I'm coming too. It's too hot.

Two: Number 2. | **Example:** I have **two** pencils.

Lose vs Loose

Lose: To misplace or not win. | **Example:** Don't lose your keys.

Loose: Not tight. | **Example:** The bolt is loose.

Principal vs Principle

Principal: Head of a school; main. | **Example:** The principal greeted the students.

Principle: Fundamental truth or belief. | **Example:** Honesty is a key principle.

Accept vs Except

Accept: To receive. | **Example:** I accept your apology.

Except: Excluding. | **Example:** Everyone is here except John.

Advice (noun) vs Advise (verb)

Advice: Guidance. | **Example:** She gave me good advice.

Advise: To offer suggestions. | **Example:** I advise you to start early.

brush basics — Learn English

MORNING ROUTINE OF A CHAMPION

Start your SAT day right with this ideal morning routine

6.00 AM — **Wake up early:** Give yourself ample time to prepare without rushing.

6.10 AM — **Hydrate and refresh:** Drink water and freshen up to kickstart your day.

6.20 AM — **Light exercise:** Boost alertness with stretching or a short walk.

6.40 AM — **Healthy breakfast:** Eat a balanced meal — think oatmeal, eggs, or fruit.

7.00 AM — **Positive affirmations:** Spend a few minutes focusing on positive thoughts.

7.10 AM — **Final prep:** Double-check you've packed your admission ticket, ID, pencils, calculator, and snacks.

7.20 AM — **Brief review (optional):** Skim key formulas or notes if it helps you feel prepared.

7.30 AM — **Depart for test centre:** Aim to arrive early to account for any delays.

8.00 AM — **Arrive and settle in:** Use extra time to relax and adjust to the environment.

8.15 AM — **Relaxation techniques:** Practice deep breathing to stay calm before the test begins.

ACE THAT ACE

Master your time with these effective strategies during the exam

UNDERSTAND THE TEST STRUCTURE:

Reading and Writing Section 64 minutes for 54 questions.

Math Section: 70 minutes for 44 questions.

TIME TO ALLOCATE PER QUESTION

Reading and Writing: ~1 minute 10 seconds per question.

Math: ~1 minute 35 seconds per question.

Tip: Keep track of time and avoid spending too long on any one question.

Remember to stay calm and focused, and to manage any anxiety with deep breathing. If you get stuck on a question, move on and return if time permits!

Top 10 GRAMMAR RULES TO REMEMBER

SOLIDIFY YOUR GRAMMAR KNOWLEDGE WITH THESE ESSENTIAL RULES

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT
Subjects & verbs must agree in number.
Example: The team is winning. The players are excited.

PRONOUN-ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT
Pronouns must agree with their antecedents.
Example: Every student must bring his or her book.

COMMA USAGE
Use commas to separate items in a list and after introductory phrases.
Example: After dinner, we watched a movie.

MISPLACED MODIFIERS
Place modifiers near the word they modify.
Incorrect: Walking home, the rain soaked her.
Correct: Walking home, she was soaked by the rain.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE
Use the same grammatical form in lists.
Example: She likes swimming, biking, and running.

CONSISTENT VERB TENSE
Keep verb tenses consistent.
Incorrect: He starts the car & drove away.
Correct: He started the car & drove away.

CORRECT USE OF APOSTROPHES
Use apostrophes for possession and contractions.
Example: That's Sarah's book. It's a nice day.

AVOID DOUBLE NEGATIVES
Do not use two negatives in one sentence.
Incorrect: I don't need no help.
Correct: I don't need any help.

USE OF SEMICOLONS AND COLONS
Use semicolons to link related independent clauses; colons to introduce lists.
Example: She has three hobbies: painting, dancing, and reading.

CORRECT COMPARISONS
Ensure comparisons are logical and complete.
Incorrect: She is smarter than anyone in her class.
Correct: She is smarter than anyone else in her class.

SAT MYTHS DEBUNKED

SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION WITH COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE SAT

MYTH: Only genius students take the SAT.
FACT: Students of all abilities can excel with the right preparation.

MYTH: You have to study every day for months to do well.
FACT: Effective study strategies over a shorter period can be equally effective.

MYTH: Guessing on the SAT can hurt your score.
FACT: There's no penalty for guessing, so it's better to answer all questions.

MYTH: The SAT is only for college admissions.
FACT: SAT scores can also be used for scholarships and other academic opportunities.

MYTH: You need expensive prep courses to score well.
FACT: Many free resources and self-study methods are highly effective.

MYTH: You can't take the SAT more than once.
FACT: Students can take the SAT multiple times to improve their scores.

MYTH: The SAT is biased against non-native English speakers.
FACT: With proper preparation, non-native speakers can perform just as well.

— Compiled by Nikhil Abhishek

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

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09.12.2024
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Peanuts premiere

A Charlie Brown Christmas, featuring characters from Charles Schulz's popular *Peanuts* comic strip, first aired on American television

THE PLOT

Created 15 years after the first *Peanuts* comic strips were published in 1950, the Christmas special picks up as Charlie Brown bemoans the holiday's over-commercialisation

RECEPTION

A Charlie Brown Christmas ran annually for 35 years on CBS, until ABC acquired the rights in 2001, a year after Charles Schulz died

AWARDS

The show won an Emmy and a Peabody, and CBS ran it again the next year. It completely changed CBS' approach to programming

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

Two Nobel Laureates – economist Abhijit Banerjee and biologist Venki Ramakrishnan – are the highlight of the 13th edition of the Bangalore Literature Festival, which is set to return this weekend

Book lovers at a previous edition of Bangalore Literature Festival

A 'LIT' AFFAIR

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

With its dizzying range of panel discussions, workshops, performances and more, the Bangalore Literature Festival (BLF) has become a year-end highlight for the city's bookworms – the place to be if you want to catch your favourite authors talking about their latest books.

"Over the years Bangalore litfest has become a safe space for readers and writers to come together. Bengalureans are very conscientious as readers and writers, and bring an authentic and electric energy to the festival," says Shinie Antony, founder and director of BLF. "The festival has grown beyond its concept and organisers. It now belongs to the people," she continues.

Returning for its 13th edition this year, the festival is bigger than ever with panel discussions featuring over 350 authors from around the world and across genres. Visitors can catch international writers like historian William Dalrymple, British writer AT Boyle, Australian short story writer Catherine McNamara, French illustrator Cheyenne Oliver, and more. Right alongside them will be discussions with beloved Indian writers like Bengalurean Ramachandra Guha, Chetan Bhagat, Durjoy Datta and Saikat Majumdar, along with notable figures like filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli, and activist Aruna Roy.

Sharing some of this year's highlights, Antony says, "This is the first time we have Nobel Laureates, and that, too, two: Venki Ramakrishnan and Abhijit Banerjee. We have a Booker Winner once again, this time Kiran Desai. There is such magic in speakers coming together in a panel or a writer talking about a new book that each time the festival manages to surprise us with its newness. You can actually see words catch fire."

There's something for everyone at this year's BLF which features a dedicated space for children – The Children's Literature Festival, and performances by Hindustani, Carnatic and Sufi musicians. There will be over 75 sessions for children focused on illustration, storytelling, games, music performances, and workshops on comic making and creative writing, all in a carnival atmosphere. "There is Sudha Murty's session about Gopi the dog – and guess what? Gopi will be coming too. There will be magic and treasure and letters to write to yourself," says Antony.

For those keen to visit, shuttle buses have been organised from Vidhana Soudha Metro station and the Prestige Trade Tower, Palace Road, where a paid parking facility is available.

(Bangalore Literature Festival will be held at The Lalit Ashok, Kumara Krupa Road, on December 14 and 15 from 9.30am onwards with free entry for all. For more details, visit bangaloreliteraturefestival.org)

(Clockwise, from left corner) Anita Desai; Abhijit Banerjee; Venki Ramakrishnan are set to speak this year

Sudha Murty at BLF 2023

OLD-WORLD CHARM

Renowned actors Naseeruddin Shah and Ratna Pathak Shah had the audiences gripped during their performance of *Old World* at the debut edition of the Bengaluru Theatre Festival, held at the Good Shepherd Auditorium on Residency Road, over the weekend | VINOD KUMAR T

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales, and marketing with well-known hotels and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress @gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,500 from Smoor Chocolates(dine-in only)**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS	FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT
1) Tsampa; 2) Oden; 3) Hákarl	1) Rana M 2) Sujata 3) Suhail

XPRESS FOCUS

Indian Church of Christ Announces "MAHIME" Christmas Fest 2024

A Celebration of Faith, Food, and Fellowship

The Indian Church of Christ has announced the "MAHIME" Christmas Fest, a festive celebration of joy, togetherness, and the true spirit of Christmas. The event will take place on December 15th, 2024, at Campus Crusade, starting at 12:00 noon.

"MAHIME," which means "Glory" in the Kannada language, invites the entire church community and their families to come together to celebrate the birth of Christ in an atmosphere of love, food, and fellowship. This annual Christmas fest promises to be a day filled with joy, special performances, delicious food, and engaging activities for all ages.

Event Highlights:

- Fellowship and Community Spirit: This event will provide a wonderful opportunity for the church to come together, strengthen bonds, and share in the festive spirit of Christmas.
- Delicious Food & Refreshments: Enjoy a variety of traditional and festive dishes, lovingly prepared for the occasion, ensuring that there is something for everyone.
- Fun Activities: The event will include games, music, and performances that cater to all age groups, from children to adults.
- Christmas Caroling & Performances: Delight in special Christmas carols and performances that celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Details:

- Event Name: MAHIME Christmas Fest 2024
- Date: December 15th, 2024
- Time: 12:00 Noon
- Location: Campus Crusade, No. 1407, Hennur Main Road, St. Thomas Town, Peace Layout, Kacharakanahalli, Bengaluru,
- Admission: Rs 50/-

Come, join for a joyful celebration of Christ's birth, fellowship with the community, and a chance to make lasting memories

The Indian Church of Christ is a community of believers committed to worship, service, and fellowship. With a deep-rooted passion for spreading the love of Christ, the church offers a warm and welcoming environment for individuals and families to connect and grow in their faith.

Culture for a Cause

Muzic5

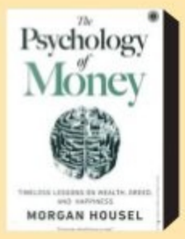
THE Lions Club of Bangalore Banjara with *The New Indian Express* as the media partner, is all set to host Embrace 2024, an unforgettable night of musical and cultural camaraderie, showcasing a vibrant blend of live music, dance and culinary delights. Scheduled for December 14 at Wings Arena, Kothanur from 2pm to 9pm, the event will raise funds to support children battling cancer, including treatment, rehabilitation and family support.

The evening will feature a plethora of musical performances by acclaimed young playback singers. Diya Hegde, who was awarded the ZEE SaReGaMaPa special entertainer trophy will take the stage, followed by SaReGaMaPa Little Champs finalist Kushik S, and Krishnadiya Ajith – the Best Child Singer at the Media Hub International Film Festival in 2022. Alongside this will be live music by the band Muzic5, featuring an energetic mix of guitar, drums, keyboard, percussion and vocals. Performances by dance schools, Advaita Cultural Centre and Kalpavriksha, will showcase the richness of Indian art and tradition. Following the performances, guests can indulge in a complimentary dinner.

(Admission is exclusively through donor passes ranging from ₹699 to ₹2,499 available at embrace24.in. Children under 5 are eligible for free entry.)

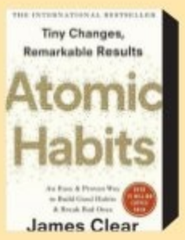
Krishnadiya Ajith

BOOK NOOK



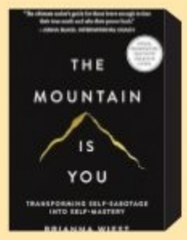
The Psychology Of Money
By Morgan Housel

The author offers a timeless lesson on wealth, greed, and happiness. It focuses on how emotions and behaviour shape our financial decisions, often more than knowledge or logic. The Psychology of Money explores this through 19 insightful stories.



Atomic Habit
By James Clear

Transform your life with small changes in behaviour, starting today. In this personal development book, James Clear explains how tiny actions lead to profound change.



The Mountain Is You
By Brianna Wiest

A self-help book about self-sabotage, and questions like why we do it, when we do it, and how to stop it for good. Conflicting needs drive self-sabotaging behaviours, but by understanding our brains, releasing past trauma, we can overcome challenges.

Beyond Biriyani: The Making of a Globalized Hyderabad
By Dinesh C Sharma

The book traces Hyderabad's transformation from a proto-colonial city under the Mughal princely state to a modern global metropolis. Exploring the city's evolution through British influence, the book showcases the rise of scientific institutions and strides in industrial research.

A GUIDING HAND

A family explores an exhibit at the Mountains of Life, a climate festival being held at the Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi | **NAGARAJA GADEKAL**

QUICKFIX

PANCAKE

INGREDIENTS
- **Flour:** 1/2 cup
- **Sugar:** 1 tbsp
- **Baking powder:** 1/2 tsp
- **A pinch of salt**
- **Milk:** 1/3 cup
- **Egg:** 1
- **Melted butter:** 1 tbsp

METHOD
- In a small bowl, whisk the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.
- In another bowl, whisk together the milk, egg, and melted butter.
- Add the wet ingredients to the dry and stir gently until just combined.
- Heat a non-stick pan over medium heat and grease it lightly with butter.
- Pour about 2 tablespoons of batter for each pancake. Cook until bubbles form on the surface, then flip and cook until golden.
- Serve with honey syrup, fruit, or anything else you prefer.

Contributed by **Sheeja Suresh**, Kasargod

DR VIVEK ARORA

drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi

My dog is 6.5-years-old, neutered, female and a jealous dog. I want to adopt a second dog. How can I make sure that my dog will not harm her?

Introducing a second dog to your jealous dog needs to be done carefully. Start by choosing a calm and friendly dog that matches your dog's energy level. When you bring the new dog home, keep them separated at first. Let them sniff each other through a barrier. Gradually allow short, supervised meetings on neutral ground, like a park. Use treats and praise to reward good behaviour. Always watch for signs of jealousy or aggression, and give both dogs plenty of attention to reduce competition. Be patient—it can take time for them to adjust.

ASK AN XPERT

FITBIT

SAVASANA UTTANA PADA WHEEL (CONSTRUCTIVE REST POSE RAISED LEGS WHEEL)

This is a variation of Savasana with the base pose as Constructive Rest Pose. It becomes a Savasana practice only for those who know how to use the wheel completely. It can be used to assist in stretching glute muscles, precarious balance, and core work. While focusing on balancing, the core is unknowingly engaged and takes the focus off from the mind loop. This may help the students be aware of the body and breath connection. It can also be used as a transition pose practiced in dharma wheel yoga sequence to rest the lower back and hips when moving between intense poses. This pose can be done by seniors and pregnant women with the help of yoga teachers to safely go into the pose.

STEPS
- Grab a dharma wheel, place it in front of you at some distance at the centre.
- Lay down on the mat in Side Lying Corpse Pose. Without rounding your back, place both the legs on the wheel flexed at the knee joint.
- Breathe deeply, rest the back of the knees and calves on the wheel while the upper body is resting on the floor.
- Ensure to lengthen the neck, by tucking the chin slightly towards the chest.
- Rest your hands away from the body, palm facing upwards, fingers softly curled (keep the hands on the abdomen if that feels more comfortable).
- Once you find the balance, gently close your eyes, soften the calves resting on the wheel.
- Bring some awareness to your eyes, fingers, and toes. From here, bring the arms closer to your body. Take the legs off the wheel.
- With the support of the hands, gently press into your core and come up, keeping the wheel to the side. Return to Sukhasana.

BENEFITS
- Stretches the glutes, quads, hamstrings, and releases the tight muscles.
- Releases the tension in the psoas muscles.
- Students can relax in this pose once they master the art of balancing the wheel.
- Taking rest in between the intense poses in the dharma wheel yoga sequence helps bring down the heartbeat.
- Activates, trains and strengthens the diaphragm.
- Involves core strength and stability.
- Makes more aware of the body and breath connection.
- Decompresses the spine.
- Aligns the practitioner with being most patient with their practice and striking a balance between strength and softness.
- Can be added as a creative way for practitioners to engage with the abdominal muscles.
- Excellent pose for women during menses because the legs are not at 90 degrees; hence the reverse flow of blood in the pelvis will be very effective.
- Supports the lower back with a blanket on top of the mat to rest the back entirely on the floor.

LIMITATIONS
- Students who had any recent surgeries to the abdomen, hips, knees, have acute back pain, herniated discs, pregnant women who find breathing difficult due to the pressure on the diaphragm should avoid this.
- Seniors who have never done yoga using a wheel, should seek guidance from a yoga expert.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Ladies' Night

Let go off the workweek stress and tune into this exciting ladies' night with great food, DJ music and free drinks. Unwind and enjoy this fabulous evening with your ladies.

WHEN: December 11, 7.30pm
WHERE: Sunburn Union, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Yoga Bliss

Kickstart your weekdays on a positive note with this well-rounded yoga workshop. De-stress and learn a mix of postures and sequences focussing on flexibility, strength and relaxation.

WHEN: December 9, 6pm **WHERE:** HeyBrewty Wellness Studio, Ashok Nagar
DETAILS: allevents.in

Sufi Serenade

Experience the beautiful fusion of narration and music in this Sufi poetry evening presented by celebrated Sufi singer and composer, **Radhika Sood Nayak**. Celebrate the essence of Punjab's soul and spirit through this sufi performance.

WHEN: December 9, 6.30pm
WHERE: National Gallery of Modern Art, Vasanth Nagar
CALL: 080-22342338

Timeless Tapestry

Learn the basics of decoupage art in this fun wood wall hanging workshop. Unleash your inner artist with this easy-to-learn workshop and create your own unique pieces of wall hangings.

WHEN: December 9, 5pm
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: artbeatclasses.com

Cricket for a Cause

Celebrate the spirit of inclusivity and empowerment in this year's Ability Sports League, the largest wheelchair cricket league in India. Delve into the joys of watching these awe-inpring players.

WHEN: December 10, 7am
WHERE: KSCA Stadium, Alur
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Theatre Magic

Attend this theatrical performance called *Innocence*, a dramatic adaptation of Franz Kafka's iconic novel *The Trial* in a contemporary Indian backdrop. Observe the layers of dark comedy as an innocent man navigates a flawed legal system in his quest for justice.

WHEN: December 10, 7pm
WHERE: Sabha BLR, Shivajinagar
DETAILS: blrhubba.in

Kathak Chronicles

Immerse yourself in the beauty of Kathak with acclaimed dancer and artistic director **Urja Desai Thakore** in this two-hour masterclass. Learn the choreography of the award-winning production *Kattam Katti* along with valuable insights about the traditional as well as the contemporary elements of the dance form.

WHEN: December 9, 10am
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

ARTCORNER

LAYERS OF LOVE

Pradipta Chakraborty's 'Mesmerized Self-Identity of Universal Lovers' captures surreal bonds and fantastical personas in acrylic

IT'S DZIREABLE

A LOOK AT HOW MARUTI SUZUKI'S ALL-NEW DZIRE FARES IN TODAY'S MARKET SATURATED WITH SUVS

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

NOWADAYS, in India, a car means an SUV. However, there remains a sizable population, whose cherished childhood dreams were knit around a toy sedan – the three-box car with a bonnet, cabin and boot.

Around 55 per cent of cars sold in the Indian market today are SUVs. Though by definition these are Sports Utility Vehicles, the majority of the so-called SUVs in Indian markets are raised hatchbacks, taking account of road conditions.

At the same time, there is a perception that the popularity of the traditional status symbol, the sedan, is fading. Roughly, just 10 per cent of the car market is held by sedans now. It's to this market that the all-new Dzire from Maruti Suzuki rolled in. When sedans are "on the way out", why is Maruti reintroducing another one? The answer is simple: Dzire has been selling more than many SUVs since its introduction in 2008.

Though this time, the hype is considerably less, there is a fan base for sedans, still in India. Last year, 1.57 lakh Dzires were sold; a figure many Compact SUVs couldn't match. And, this December, the new Honda Amaze is also coming to the compact sedan category. These two new cars will definitely bring a lot of attention to the sedan market.

This fourth generation Dzire is miles ahead of the previous versions. I was able to test drive the car in Goa a couple of days ago. Here's how the experience was.

The safety

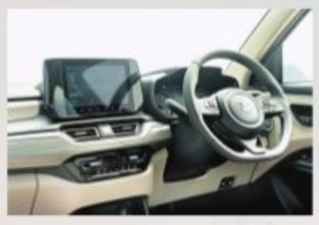
This is the first-ever Maruti Suzuki car to get a five-star rating for adult protection in the crash tests performed under GNCAP (Global New Car Assessment Programme). It also scored four stars in the child protection rating. As Indian customers are more and more falling for the star rating, this will help Dzire reach new customers. Structural rigidity is the main reason behind Dzire's success in the crash test. The other safety features include six airbags, three-point seatbelts, ESP, ABS with EBD, 360-degree camera and hill hold assist.

The Design

The life of the first-gen Dzire began as the sedan sibling of the Swift hatchback with a boot added to the hatchback. But now it has evolved further moving away from the Swift line.

Look at the front, the wide grille and beautifully crafted headlamp clusters connected by a chrome strip are giving the vehicle a big-car appeal. The flat bonnet adds to it. The side view has some similarities with the outgoing model, but the tail lamp, connecting strip, lip spoiler, etc, make the rear look fresh and wider.

The cabin shares its design largely with the Swift. The dashboard, centre console, steering wheel, and instrument panel are all similar but the colour scheme is vastly varied. The Dzire has beige on the dash, door pads and seats, and wood trim and silver accents across the dash. It looks pleasant, bright and neat. All controls are easy to access. A



nine-inch touchscreen with thick bezels stands on the dashboard. The instrument panel is a twin-dial, simple and easy to read.

The plush, bolstered seats provide very good comfort. It doesn't have any cooling features. The back row seats provide good legroom. Overall the cabin has a premium appeal. With a not-so-large sunroof, the bright cabin becomes brighter.

Features

Apart from the touch screen, sunroof and 360-degree camera, Dzire has Arkamy's sound system, Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS), Cruise Control, USB Fast Charger, Rear AC Vents etc.

Performance and efficiency

Powering the new Dzire is the Z-Series 1.2Litre Petrol engine with 60 kW (80.4 hp) of peak power and 111.7 Nm of peak torque. This engine has been tuned to provide excellent low-end torque for comfortable city drives. Through the narrow lanes and crowded beach centres of Goa, Dzire cruised effortlessly.

This model comes with a new suspension setup translating into a smoother drive experience. This gives a plusher ride, better than that in a Swift. The car is very stable even at three-digit speeds.

Price

The new model is priced from ₹6.79 lakh to ₹10.14 lakh (Ex-showroom). Prices of the AMT variants are ₹45,000 higher than manual. It also has two CNG variants.

Verdict

The new Dzire will attract customers with its exterior design, engine performance, cabin space, safety rating and travel comfort. The ride and handling quality make it a real sedan. 27 lakh Dzires have been sold in India so far. The fourth-gen Dzire can take this to the next level.

Dimensions (mm)
Length: **3,995**
Width: **1735**
Height: **1,525**
Wheelbase: **2,450**

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

The writer is a freelance auto expert whohosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

NEW RELEASES

ATHER EIGHT70 TM WARRANTY

Ather Energy Limited Unveils 'Eight70 TM Warranty' for the battery of its electric scooters. The warranty offers a minimum 70% battery health assurance up to 8 years/80,000 km on Rizta and the 450 scooter models. The warranty addresses concerns regarding long-term battery health, performance and replacement costs by providing a host of benefits. It is priced at ₹4,999 for the pro-pack.

IONIQ 9 ELECTRIC SUV

Hyundai recently unveiled the IONIQ 9, a three-row, all-electric SUV with expansive interior space. The model is an appealing new choice for customers seeking a three-row EV that can accommodate up to seven occupants. The interior space has a fully flat floor, relaxation seats, and a slidable Universal Island 2.0 console to enhance the passenger experience. Its 110.3 kWh battery delivers a range of 620 km and the advanced E-GMP architecture delivers 10 to 80 per cent recharge in 24 minutes.

ROYAL ENFIELD GOAN CLASSIC 350

Drawing inspiration from the iconic Goan moto-culture of the '80s, Royal Enfield has launched the Goan Classic 350 – a bobber-inspired motorcycle, that celebrates and embodies non-conformity and a free-spirited lifestyle. It is powered by the popular 349cc air-oil cooled, single-cylinder engine that balances effortless power and a smooth ride. Producing 20.2 bhp at 6,100 rpm and 27 Nm of torque at 4,000 rpm, this engine is tuned for smooth, unhurried performance, ideal for the laid-back nature of bobber riding. The 5-speed gearbox allows for easy shifts and relaxed cruising. It is available in four single and dual-toned colours priced at ₹2.35 lack to ₹ 2.38 lack, respectively.

GET YOUR PENS AND NOTEBOOKS OUT FOR THIS VIDEOGAME

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

IS solving the Sunday morning cryptic crossword getting a little too easy for you? Of course it is. That's a puzzle for newbs. You are more intense than that. You crave something with a little more complexity, don't you? You want the kind of puzzle that changes its rules every day. And maybe they don't even tell you that they've changed up the rules. You want to wake up every morning to pin up the answers on a giant conspiracy board trying to make sense of it all. You can't prove anything just yet, but you know that there's a pattern hidden here somewhere. Does this sound insane to you? If yes, then look away. This isn't for you. Are you still here? Good. Let me tell you about *Lorelei and the Laser Eyes*.

The game begins on a dark night. You, the heroine, park your vehicle outside a very gloomy old hotel. You have accepted an invitation to meet an acquaintance here. But they don't seem to be here. In fact, the hotel seems empty. So, what do you do if you have a night alone at a large hotel? Explore it, of course. Something terrible has happened here. That much you can tell. But what? Does it have anything to do with the names scribbled on the walls? Renzo.

Lorenzo. Renate. Lorelei. Does it have anything to with the mysterious man with face of a maze that hovers around you? This, dear reader, was all I knew two hours into playing *Lorelei and the Laser Eyes*. With 80 rooms in the mansion, but only 4 open as of yet, it's difficult to figure out what needs to be done to unlock the rest. Clues are scattered throughout all the currently accessible areas of the hotel. But I hardly know where they might be useful. So I write every single thing down. Dates, symbols, names. And then it all starts to make sense. A pattern emerges. For eg., early in the game, I found some important looking receipts from the hotel architects. It was a confusing mess of pages with tricky calculations. I also noticed that every floor of the hotel had a lock box with similar symbology to the architect receipts. I clocked the pattern. As it turned out, unlocking the boxes with the clues I had from the receipts gave me access to the hotel's construction plans! This was helpful to have in the first couple of hours. It gave me a sense of the scale of the game itself: How many rooms remain unlocked? How far was I from solving the mystery? While I love the puzzles, the game's greatest achievement is in making sure I document everything. I wrote down the questions that I had, the clues that I found, and the items that remained unsolved. At any point, I'd have a sudden 'Aha!' moment, where I connect clue to puzzle, and puzzle to solution.

There's a lot of pattern recognition puzzles within the game, and through these, I ended up refamiliarising myself with roman numerals and the Greek alphabet! I thought I'd seen the last of that with my statistics class from years ago. *Lorelei and the Laser Eyes* is one of the best mystery games I've played – and has rightfully been nominated for the 'Game Awards' this year for the Best Independent Game category. It's currently available on Windows and the Nintendo Switch and will be available on the PlayStation later this month. It's worth a try if you love solving puzzles.

(The writer's views are personal)

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Hajjeeirra Saad W/o G.M. Saadulla Baig residing at No. 10/1-1, 6th Cross, Hutchins Road, St. Thomas Town Post, Bangalore - 560084, have changed my name from HAJEERA BEGUM to HAJJEEIRRA SAAD, vide affidavit dated 05.12.2024 sworn before notary Kishwar Hussain M.S, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **EEREGOWDA** (Old Name), Aged about 55 Years, Son of Late THAMMEGOWDA @ THAMMAIAH, Residing at NO. 42/2, 2ND CORSS, MARAPPA LAYOUT, RAJGARH BHAVAN MARG, RAJARAJESHWARINAGAR, BENGALURU-560098, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **EEREGOWDA** (Old Name) to **EEREGOWDA THAMMEGOWDA** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **EEREGOWDA THAMMEGOWDA** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 07/12/2024 before Notary **C.V.EARAPPA** at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) C L ANAND** Residing at No.3C, 3rd Floor, Paramount Apartment, Budha Marg, Opp: DFRL Siddharth Nagar, Mysore-570011, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) C L ANAND** to **(NEW NAME) ANANDA C.L.** vide affidavit dated 07.12.2024 sworn before Notary Prakasha.C., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, MANIKANTA A, aged about 33 years. S/o ARMUGAM, AND **PREETHI C,** aged about 32 years, W/O MANIKANTA A Both are Residing at: # 45, 2nd Main Road, 3rd Cross, Near Lakshmi Tent, Sampangappa Layout, Mathikere, Bangalore-560054, we declare that our son's name is wrongly recorded as **HADHWIK. M** in his Birth Certificate will have his name corrected and changed to **HADHVIK KARTHIKEYAN. M.,** vide affidavit dated 6/12/2024 sworn to before S.R.Ravikumar Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, G.M. Saadulla Baig S/o Mustafa Baig Gafoor residing at No. 10/1-1, 6th Cross, Hutchins Road, St. Thomas Town Post, Bangalore - 560084, have changed my name from SAADULLA BAIG to G.M. SAADULLA BAIG, vide affidavit dated 05.12.2024 sworn before notary Kishwar Hussain M.S, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAJI DINESH** (Existing name of Spouse as per NOK) is legally wedded spouse of JC 820713N, Rank: SUB(MP), Name: **DINESH KUMAR V** presently Residing at HQ & DEPO Company, CMP Centre and School, Bangalore -25, permanently residing at Uthram Nivas, Post: Meeyannoor, Pooyapally (via) Dist: Kollam, State: Kerala, Pin- 691537, I have changed my name from **RAJI DINESH** to **RAJI V.G** and my date of birth is 18-01-1980 (Eighteen January Nineteen Eighty) vide affidavit dated 06-12-2024 before Notary **G.Dayananda,** Advocate and Notary Govt. of India, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, FAZIL ASKAR ALI (New Name), S/o. Mr. Askar Ali, residing at No. 308 Radiant Prime Rose Apartment, 2nd Cross, 22nd Main, 5th Phase, J.P. Nagar, Vinayakanagar, Bangalore -560078, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from FAZIL B (Old Name) to FAZIL ASKAR ALI (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as FAZIL ASKAR ALI (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 03/12/2024, before Notary MOHAMMED HUSSAIN. K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, GOPALAKRISHNAN S/o. Velayudhan Nair, aged about 72 years, residing at:-No.672, New No-13, 6th Cross, Chinnappanahalli, Doddanakundi Extension, Bangalore North, Marathahalli Colony, Bangalore-560 037, Presently residing at Santrupti Belaku Bldg, No.108/2, Kakayappa Layout, Nagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore - 560066, have changed my name from **GOPALAKRISHNAN AYIKARA** to **GOPALAKRISHNAN,** vide affidavit dated 7/12/2024 sworn to before Sumithra.N Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mr. RAVINDRA M. NAIK,** S/o Mr. Madev Naik, age 43 years, presently R/at No. 76, 3rd Main, Amarjyothi Layout, Chola Nagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560 032 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **RAVINDRA M. NAIK, RAVINDRA NAIK, RAVINDRA** and **RAVIINDRA BHARATHIYA** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **RAVIINDRA BHARATHIYA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 7th Dec. 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **C.V. EARAPPA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) PRAVEEN Residing at No.45, Sri Guru Krupa, 11th Main, 2nd Cross, Mathikere Extension, Bengaluru-560054, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) PRAVEEN** to **(NEW NAME) PRAVEEN PRAKASH** vide affidavit dated 06.12.2024 sworn before Notary A.Manjula., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VIJAYA R HEGDE,** W/o. Raviraj Hegde, aged about 54 years, residing at No. 110, Opera Spring Leaf, Kodichikkanahalli Main Road, Kodichikkanahalli, B.G. Road, Bangalore-560076, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ARATI PANDIT** to **VIJAYA R HEGDE,** vide affidavit dated 07.12.2024, sworn to before Dharani .P, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, S. Iqbal Basha, My Daughter Miss. AYMAN FARAAZ as a correct name, (Mentioned in Birth & Aadhar Certificate) aged about 16 years, D/o. S. Iqbal Basha, residing at No.41C, 8th Main, Gurappan Palya, B.G. Road, Bangalore-560029. have changed my daughter's name from **IIMAN FARAAZ** to **AYMAN FARAAZ,** vide affidavit dated 06/12/2024 sworn to before R.Sulakshana Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ARSHIYA TABUSSOM PANA KUNA @ ARSHIYA TABUSSOM .P.K,** age 39 years, W/o K. Mohammed Tameem, presently R/at No. 2/2, 1st Floor, Haines Road, 3rd Cross, Bangalore-560 051 do hereby declare that all the names **ARSHIYA TABUSSOM PANA KUNA, ARSHIYA TABUSSOM PERIYA KULAM, ARSHIYA TABASSOM, ARSHIYA TABASSUM and ARSHIYA TABASSOUM** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 05-12-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **KISHWAR HUSSAIN M.S.** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Sujana (New Name) W/o Basavaraj, Aged about 30 years, and residing at # Gollahalli, Avalagurki, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka-562101, (Camp at Kengeri), hereby state that I have changed my name from **"REETA P"** to **"SUJANA"** vide Affidavit dated **16.11.2024**, before Advocate & Notary **RAVI, B.A, LL.B.,** No. 2663/J, 6th 'B' Main, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560 040.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mr. SRIJIT NAMBIAR,** aged about 40 years, S/o P. M. Jayakrishnan, the undersigned Father of **BHARAT SURYA NAMBIAR** (New Name) previously called **BHARAT S NAMBIAR** (Old Name), aged about 7 years, R/of F No. A-104, First Floor, Greenesto O2 Harlur, Main Road Beside Sobha Classic Apartment, Bangalore-560 102, Karnataka. Hereby declare that, I have changed my minor son's name from **'BHARAT S NAMBIAR'** to **"BHARAT SURYA NAMBIAR",** vide Affidavit dated 07.12.2024, Sworn before Advocate and Notary K.V Mani, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I NEHA KUMARI KIRAN RAJ W/O UTSAV JAIN, RESIDENT OF C-304, QUEENS CORNER, # 3, QUEENS ROAD, OPPOSITE INDIAN EXPRESS BUILDING, BANGALORE-560001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AS NEHA KUMARI VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED: 7-12-2024 SWORN BEFORE NOTARY: V.RAJASHEKHARA, BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ARSHIYA TABUSSOM PANA KUNA,** presently R/at No. 2/2, 1st Floor, Haines Road, 3rd Cross, Bangalore-560 051 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ARSHIYA TABUSSOM PERIYA KULAM** to **ARSHIYA TABUSSOM PANA KUNA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ARSHIYA TABUSSOM PANA KUNA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 05-12-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **KISHWAR HUSSAIN .M.S** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SHANAZ BEGUM A Residing at No.45, 5th Cross, 5th Main, Papanna Block, Ganganagar, R.T.Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SHANAZ BEGUM A** to **(NEW NAME) SHANNAZ BEGUM** vide affidavit dated 6.12.2024 sworn before Notary Sivakumara M.N., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Sultan Siraz Choudhary, aged about 27 years, S/o. Mr. Siraz Choudhary, R/at 1st A Main Road, Behind Indra Canteen 1, Gandhipura, Gandhipuram, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560066 Karnataka, India, I have changed my name from **'SULTAN SIRAZ CHOUDHARY'** & **'AKASH SIRAZ MILGADE'** Vide affidavit dated 07.12.2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary, Indira S S, Bengaluru.

For SMART ADS & INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

Directed by Navaneeth, the horror comedy is set to haunt theatres in early January 2025

Resul Pookutty to add spooks to Sharan's *Choomantar*

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Sharan is set to kick off 2025 with *Choomantar*, a horror comedy that has been creating noise even before its official release set for January 10, 2025. Directed by Navaneeth, the film is expected to deliver a thrilling and comedic experience. What makes *Choomantar* even more exciting is the involvement of noted sound designer Resul Pookutty. Known for his work across multiple languages, including the recent *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, Resul's collaboration with the film brings a whole new level of auditory magic to the project.

This will be his second Kannada film and his first commercial outing in the language, following his romantic drama debut with *Niruttara*. Director Navaneeth shares, "It was the showreel of Choomantar that caught Resul's attention, and his decision to come on board truly elevated the film."

Navaneeth, Avinash Basuthkar, Resul Pookutty and Tarun Shivappa

The film's storyline, which revolves around paranormal activities and ghost hunters, takes the audience on an eerie yet humorous ride. Another highlight of the film is its use of over 50 minutes of cutting-edge VFX, creating a visual and sensory feast that amplifies the chilling atmosphere.

Produced by Manasa Tarun and Tarun Shivappa under the banner of Tarun Studios, *Choomantar* has music composed by Avinash Basuthkar, including two songs, with Chandan Shetty composing the introduction number. Anup Kattukaran handles the cinematography, and Venki UDV is responsible for the editing.

DHRUVA SARJA'S NEXT TO BE HELMED BY RAJGURU?

A SHARADHAA

DHRUVA Sarja, after *Martin's* release, is rumoured to be charting his next big move. While the actor is wrapping up the final portions of Prem's *KD*, he has some interesting projects in his lineup. The latest buzz from Gandhinagar suggests that Dhruva Sarja has given the green light to a film to be helmed by *Kerebete* director Rajguru.

The director, who made an impressive debut with *Kerebete*, a film centred around the lives of fishermen, is gearing up to explore a new subject with this project. His debut, which garnered attention for its culturally rich narrative and even made it to platforms like IFFI, set a high standard for storytelling. This upcoming film, though still in its pre-production stage, is rumoured to once again be deeply rooted in Karnataka's traditions, with a village backdrop. However, as speculated, it is not similar to what was depicted in *Kerebete*.

The makers are keeping the specifics under wraps, with an official announcement expected to unveil the production details and star cast. For Dhruva, alongside *KD*, which already has a sequel in the pipeline with KVN Productions, the actor is also committed to projects with directors like Raghavendra Hegde and production houses such as People Media Factory. This new collaboration with Rajguru only adds to his impressive slate.

Rumour has it that the director is crafting another rooted story, but not along the lines of Kerebete, as speculated

Rajguru

Dhruva Sarja

Naveen Shankar's next, *Nodidavaru Ennatare* set to release on this date

CE FEATURES

NAVEEN Shankar is taken note of for his roles right from his debut, *Gultoo*, to *Hondisi Bareyiri* and *Dharani Mandala Madhyadolage*. Known for his rugged and intense portrayals in films like *Hoysala*, *Kshetrapathi*, and *Salaar*, Naveen is now gearing up for his next venture, *Nodidavaru Ennatare*. Directed by Kuldeep Cariappa, this film is slated to hit screens on January 31, 2025.

The narrative of *Nodidavaru Ennatare* explores the existential crisis that many face at critical junctures in life and struggles over identity and purpose. The film is expected to reflect on the questions that arise while navigating societal roles.

Director Kuldeep Cariappa describes his character as "a reflection of all of us," embodying the shared human battle with existential questions.

The film features Apoorva Bharadwaj, of the *Naanu Adhu Mathu Saroja* fame, is part of the principal cast of *Nodidavaru Ennatare*. He will also be making his directorial debut with BTS: Behind the Scenes.

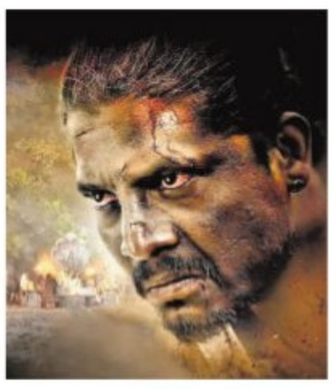
The project's technical team includes Ashwin Kennedy as cinematographer, Mayuresh Adhikari composes the film's music, and Manu Shedgar handles editing. Dialogues are penned collaboratively by Kuldeep Cariappa, Sai Shrinidhi, Prajwal Raj, and Sunil Venkatesh.

The film's soundtrack has contributions from lyricists like Lyla and Jayanth Kaikini, and singers Sadhu Kokila, Ananya Bhat, and Keerthan Holla lend their voices to the various songs, while American artist Jordan Robert Kirk delivers a special number.

Stills from the film

Stepping into the shoes of a lead actor was a dream come true: Tsunami Kitty

CE FEATURES



TSUNAMI Kitty, a former *Bigg Boss* contestant, is all set to make his debut as a lead actor in the upcoming film *Kora*. Directed by *Orata* Shree, the film revolves around the lives of the *Kora* tribal community. Set for release in January, the team recently unveiled the film's soulful track 'Oppikondalu', written by Revanna Nayak and composed by Hemanth Kumar. Telugu distributor Balaji and Kannada actor *Orata* Prashanth extended their best wishes.

Produced by P Murthy under the Rathnamma Movies banner, *Kora* was extensively shot in the dense forests of Chikkamagaluru, Horanadu, and Sakleshpur areas. Speaking about the experience, P Murthy shares, "Despite the remote locations, the team's dedication made filming smooth. We're thrilled to bring this story to audiences in January and have already sold remake rights for Telugu and Tamil versions."

Tsunami Kitty expressed his gratitude over playing the lead with *Kora*. "I'm thankful to the producer for this opportunity and to Orata Shree for guiding me through the process," he says, adding that stepping into the shoes of a lead actor was a dream come true."

Joining Kitty is Charishma, who plays the female lead, while P Murthy takes on the role of the film's antagonist.

The cast and crew, including co-producer Cheluvaraju, actors MK Math, Yathiraj, Ganesh Rao, and Soujanya. The film's cinematography is by Selvam.

Team Kora

Sudharani dons the cop uniform in *Chowkidar*

CE FEATURES

SUDHARANI, a prominent name in Kannada cinema, is all set to sport khakhi in Chandrashekar Bandiappa's *Chowkidar*. She will be sharing the screen with Pruthvi Ambaar of Dia fame and Dhanya Ramkumar. The ensemble cast also includes Dialogue King Saikumar, Shwetha, and Dharma.

Director Chandrashekar Bandiappa, known for his previous hit Rathavara, has cast Pruthvi Ambar in a rugged new avatar, a departure from his usual loverboy roles.

Despite revealing she will play a cop in the film, the makers are guarded about sharing further details about the character and its significance.

The technical crew of *Chowkidar* boasts includes Sachin Basrur as music composer, Siddu Kanchanahalli oversees the cinematography, and Dnyaneshw B. Mathad handles the editing. Action sequences are choreographed by Ravi Varma, while lyrics are penned by Pramod Maravanthe, Santosh Nayak, and Dr. V. Nagendra Prasad.

The film's crucial portions have been shot extensively in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, making it only the second Kannada after Shivarajkumar's Andaman in 1998.

Produced under the VS Entertainment banner by educationist Kallahalli Chandrashekhar, *Chowkidar* is set to release in multiple languages.

Sudharani

XPRESS FOCUS

Geetha Priya Shines in *Tayavva*

A Landmark Film on Women Empowerment

Geetha Priya, an emerging star with a passion for meaningful cinema, takes center stage in *Tayavva*, a film dedicated to championing women empowerment. Launched on December 2nd at Renukamba Digital Studio, the film has already garnered attention with its impactful theme and the presence of respected luminaries — legendary actress Uma Sri and opposition leader R. Ashok, at the grand event.

Presented by Bama Harish, directed by Pawan, and produced by Padmavathi, *Tayavva* is set in the heart of rural India, reflecting the struggles and resilience of women. The film's storyline aligns closely with the values Geetha Priya represents. Known for her dedication to portraying strong, meaningful characters, Geetha Priya brings depth and authenticity to the lead role.

"This film is close to my heart," shared Geetha Priya at the launch event. "It's not just a story; it's a voice for every woman who strives to overcome challenges and make a mark in society. I'm honoured to be part of a project that stands for such an important cause."

Beyond acting, Geetha Priya has consistently used her platform to advocate for women's rights and empowerment. Her involvement in initiatives supporting education and financial independence for women has made her a role model for many. With *Tayavva*, she further cements her commitment to creating change through art.

Scheduled for a 25-day shoot in picturesque rural locations, *Tayavva* promises to be a heartfelt narrative that highlights the strength and courage of women. As Geetha Priya steps into this significant role, audiences can expect an inspiring performance that will resonate across generations.

PRESENTED BY BAMA HARISH, DIRECTED BY PAWAN, AND PRODUCED BY PADMAVATHI, *TAYAVVA* IS SET IN THE HEART OF RURAL INDIA, REFLECTING THE STRUGGLES AND RESILIENCE OF WOMEN. THE FILM'S STORYLINE ALIGNS CLOSELY WITH THE VALUES GEETHA PRIYA REPRESENTS. KNOWN FOR HER DEDICATION TO PORTRAYING STRONG, MEANINGFUL CHARACTERS, GEETHA PRIYA BRINGS DEPTH AND AUTHENTICITY TO THE LEAD ROLE.